

# THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Volume 50, Issue 16

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

thecord.ca

## City councillors to lead planning for 'student ghetto'

LINDA GIVETASH  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

On Nov. 26, a town meeting was hosted in St. Michael's Church for the Northdale community to discuss the future of the area as the neighbouring universities continue to grow.

"We're not a permanent resident and student neighborhood anymore, we're a student neighborhood with a few remaining permanent residents," said Christine Carmody, area resident and member of Help Urbanize the Ghetto in Waterloo (HUG Waterloo).

The population of Northdale – the area north of Wilfrid Laurier University between the University of Waterloo and King Street – has transformed from primarily long-term residing families to frequently moving students.

Before attendees broke into discussion groups to critique the community vision presented by councilor Jan d'Ailly and city staff, members of HUG Waterloo stepped in to present their alternate proposal.

"We don't feel that our voice is being heard by our own councilor," said Jim Flynn, member of HUG Waterloo.

"We've had meeting after meeting and we always seem like we're starting but really ... it's a failure to launch," he added.

This town hall acted as a follow-up to the meeting held in April 2009 which addressed the major concerns of both permanent and student residents.

The vision proposed by the city encompassed those concerns and outlined the developments they would like to see in the future.

Having looked over both proposed visions, councilor d'Ailly said, "Actually if you take a close look at it they're remarkably similar. There's about 80 per cent overlap."

This was not a view shared by HUG Waterloo members. "The one with the city, the one that Jan d'Ailly created, I don't think represents all of the city, it's completely unrealistic," said Carmody.

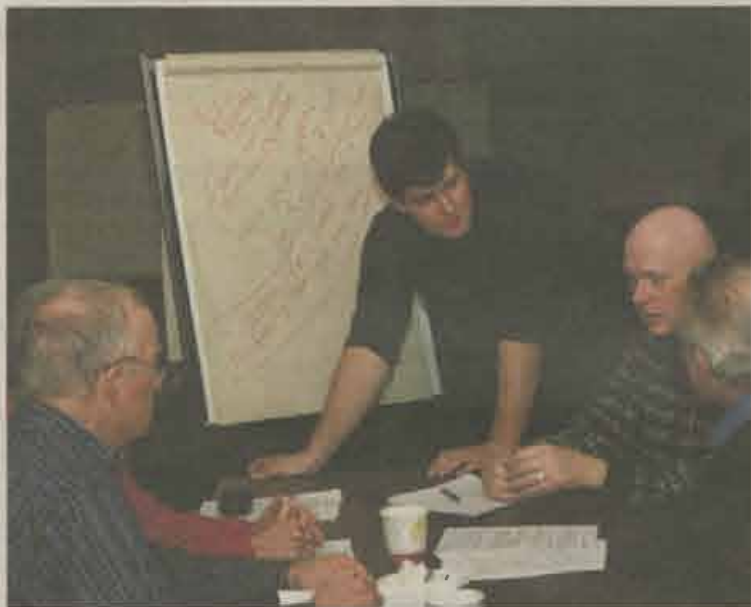
The solution proposed by HUG Waterloo is to rezone the area to allow for higher density housing, such as apartment buildings, that are designed for the student lifestyle.

"Our houses just don't suit the purpose [of residents] that actually live in our community, so why not build something that's actually good for students," said Carmody.

Regardless of the problems with the current measures in place for housing in the area, students should still be informed and engaged in order to help progress community development.

"I think the first step is not to be

Local, page 5



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier student Andrew Fryer discusses a vision for the Northdale community with permanent residents at Thursday's town meeting.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

This family of three looks upon the lights now on display in Waterloo Park. The city held the opening of the annual Wonders of Winter festival on Saturday evening.

Don Morgenson explores the myth of holiday blues. Opinion, page 17

## Varsity teams may go to Brantford

Athletics considers moving rugby program; timeframe unknown

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University athletic department is currently in the preliminary stage of a plan to re-locate Golden Hawks varsity teams to Laurier's Brantford campus.

According to director of athletics Peter Baxter, there are a number of teams that could potentially move; however, the program that appears to be the most likely is rugby.

"The issue of [moving teams to] Brantford has always been on the table, but we have to go through an evaluation process," said Baxter. "I had a meeting with all of our varsity teams where we went over that process, but the one that's started to snowball in terms of the rumour mill is the rugby teams."

This proposal has sparked a heated backlash from people surrounding the team who feel that the rugby program is being singled out. However, the athletics department maintains that they are far from making any kind of final decision.

"There's been a rash of e-mails that have come to myself, [president of Laurier] Max Blouw and [dean of students] David McMurray about

the inevitability of the team moving," said Baxter. "But that's not the case at all.... At this point that is really premature. Obviously we'll look at it as an option when we deal with our interuniversity advisory committees, but there's been no decision at this time."

The main reasons cited by Baxter for the proposed re-location is increasing availability at Laurier Waterloo's athletic facilities and giving Laurier Brantford another attraction to recruit students, as the students of the Brantford campus pay athletic fees yet have no varsity teams.

Men's rugby head coach Josh Windsor acknowledges the positives that could come out of the team's potential move to Brantford.

"I know there is a desire in Brantford to have varsity teams," he said.

"They're trying to establish themselves and attract more students and we know that athletics will be able to do that."

Despite any benefits that the Brantford campus may receive, there is no denying the negative impact a move will have on the Hawks' rugby program.

"It will essentially limit almost all of my players from participating," said Windsor. "I doubt many

of the students will be able to have access to their own transportation from Waterloo or have the financial ability to fund that drive every day. In addition, they would have to have the time to do so."

According to Windsor, the drive from Waterloo to Brantford would take at least an hour; adding that travel time to the other aspects of the players' athletic commitments such as practices, work-outs and games would put a massive strain on the student-athletes.

The players themselves, meanwhile, are taking the news in stride and not over-reacting when so little has been decided.

"We had a meeting with [interuniversity sport co-ordinator] Wally [Gabler] yesterday where we discussed where things were and my understanding is that this is really a preliminary review," said Kevin Little, a third-year player on the men's rugby team.

"It's nothing to get too worried about right now. I don't know the details, but I know there's a lot of bureaucratic things that they have to go through before anything really happens."

Sports, page 19

## Inside

### Laurier receives 2,200 H1N1 declarations

With a large number of students claiming to have symptoms of swine flu, The Cord investigates the current process to report illness and speaks to one student who has been abusing the system

News, page 4

### Student representatives lobby government

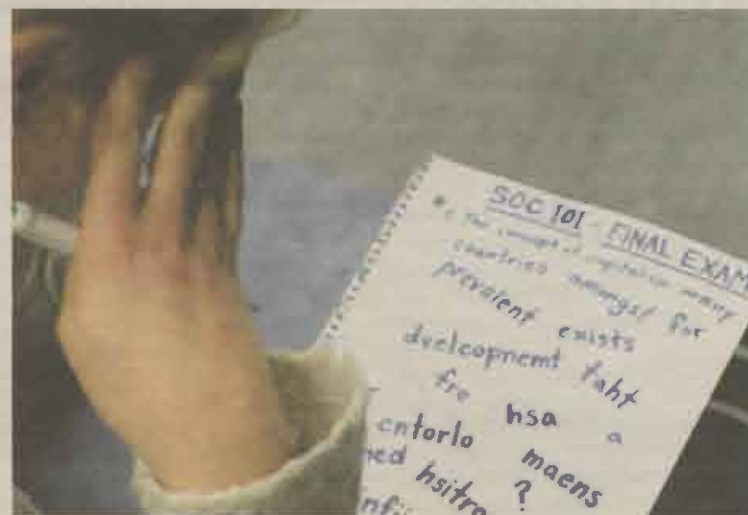
Members of the OUSA and WLUSU visit Queen's Park and bring forward issues of quality, tuition and student financial assistance to over 60 members of provincial parliament

National, page 6

### Learning to avoid a stigma

An examination of student life with a learning disability and what the Laurier community does to accommodate those who are registered with the Accessible Learning Centre

Life, page 15





**Editor's choice**

*Class donates \$1,200 to local charity*

News, page 4

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| News .....          | 3 |
| Local .....         | 5 |
| National .....      | 6 |
| International ..... | 8 |
| Feature .....       | 9 |

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| In Depth ..... | 10 |
| Arts .....     | 12 |
| Life .....     | 14 |
| Opinion .....  | 16 |
| Sports .....   | 19 |

**Editor's choice**

*A week without ... Facebook*

thecord.ca/life

Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson • lcarlson@thecord.ca

## From the archives

**5 years****Volunteer fired after showing students weed in Foot van**

The co-ordinator of Foot Patrol on Laurier's Brantford campus Ryan Duncan was fired after several allegations against him. Duncan was accused of telling students that it was acceptable to drink in the Foot office and being in possession of marijuana while on shift. On one particular occasion, Duncan showed his weed to students who were getting a ride home.

Printed Dec. 1, 2004

**25 years****Laurier hosts lecture on alcohol advertisements**

On Nov. 20, Jean Kilbourne, a media analyst, writer and film creator, gave a lecture about the effect of alcohol advertisements. Kilbourne talked about improper social attitudes towards drinking and how advertisers spend large amounts of money targeting alcohol ads to students. Ironically enough, her lecture took place in the Turret, one of Laurier's campus bars.

Printed Nov. 29, 1984

**35 years****Turret gets liquor license**

After lengthy negotiations between the university and the Liquor License Board of Ontario (LLBO), the Turret was approved for a liquor license. Prior to receiving the license, the establishment – which was operating in the Students' Union ballroom – was obtaining banquet permits each day it was open. In order to qualify for the license, the Turret had to install a railway to provide a walkway around the entire ballroom.

Printed Dec. 5, 1974

**CORRECTIONS**

In the Nov. 25 article entitled "Experiencing Laurier's opera" it was stated that students performed the Vietnamese Waltz, when in fact it was the Vietnamese Waltz. The music director Leslie De'Ath was referred to as she when in fact De'Ath is a man. It was also stated that the Opera Excerpts were hosted by the music department, when it was the faculty of music who put on the show. The Cord apologizes for these errors.

In the Nov. 18 article "Rethinking the African aid model" the article failed to note that the event featuring author Dambisa Moyo held at the University of Waterloo was co-sponsored by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). The Cord apologizes for this oversight.

**Editor's note**

Although The Cord is finished publishing on its regular schedule for the fall semester, we will update thecord.ca throughout the exam period. If you visit thecord.ca and fill out our reader survey before Jan. 1, you will also have the chance to win an iPod touch.

## This week in quotes

**"You know what I hate? People who are ballsy in a fucking crowd. Go to a ticket box. Get your fucking money back and shut the fuck up!"**

—Matt Good during a performance at Centre in the Square on Monday night.



**"Everyone is changing ... but Canada is staying the same."**

—Third-year Laurier student Emily Slofstra, who will be travelling to Copenhagen to attend the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference.

**"I think you can't live a life without fear, otherwise you get into a mind state where you feel you're untouchable and the moment you start feeling that, especially in this industry, you're done for."**

—Prevail of Swollen Members: the band will be playing Dec. 3 at the Starlight in Waterloo.



**"There you go. End of rant."**

—Laurier professor Peter Eglin, when concluding an interview with The Cord.

## Vocal Cord

Do you think that long distance relationships can work?



**"Yes. It just takes effort and a lot of love."**

—Camille Lawrence  
Second-year communications



**"It does if you use Skype... Skype helped me out a lot."**

—Sven-Erik Nyman  
Second-year history



**"I don't think so....There's always other people close to you and girls around that are going to catch your attention."**

—Brian Oh  
Third-year psychology



**"Yes, if they're committed to each other and have some sort of plan about what they want to do."**

—Jason Tissera  
Fourth-year business

Compiled by Jennifer Bisson  
Photos by Nick Lachance

**thecord.ca**  
Watch video vocal cord

# A Decade in Review

To commemorate the end of the first decade of the 21st century, The Cord is releasing a special edition to pay tribute to the 2000s. Beginning where we were 10 years ago, this special issue will assess issues ranging from the growth of the university to pop culture.

*On stands and online Wednesday, Dec. 9*

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**Colophon**

The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1926 as the College Cord, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.

Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, the Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.

All content appearing in the Cord bears the copyright expressly of their creator(s) and may not be used without written consent.

The Cord is created using Macintosh computers running Mac OS X 10.5 using Adobe Creative Suite 4. Canon Rebel cameras are used for principal photography.

The Cord has been a proud member of the Ontario Press Council since 2006. Any unsatisfied complaints can be sent to the council at info@ontariopress.com.

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The Cord has been a proud member of the Canadian University Press (CUP) since 2004.

Campus Plus is The Cord's national advertising agency.

## Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy.

The staff of the Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through the Cord's contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Quote of the week:

"I probably wouldn't sleep with me based on our house."

Features Editor Shannon Busta commenting on how dirty houses are deal breakers.



# NEWS

News Editor Lauren Millet • [lmillet@thecord.ca](mailto:lmillet@thecord.ca)

## Second-years set to lose meal plan money

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH  
STAFF WRITER

On Dec. 31, the \$500 balance that second-year Laurier students could carry forward as part of their mandatory meal plan will expire.

While in previous years the money that remained on a student's OneCard after their first year was transferred into a convenience account, the meal plan has been tailored due to food service's extensive profit losses.

"What we're striving for is that our food service operations will operate as a break-even business. We're not trying to be profit-focused at all, but we're trying to offer a break-even operation, and we've been challenged to do that in the past," said director of student services Dan Dawson.

"These initiatives on meal plans are one component of our overall strategy on how to achieve that."

Dawson further explained that the majority of students will not be losing money as "three quarters of the money that was in that carry-forward pool has been spent already this fall."

Second-year French student Jasmin Thurston explained that a number of her friends are frustrated in having to spend the additional money.

"They're stuck this year trying to spend \$1,000 when they could spend the money on groceries and make better food," Thurston continued.

"We take money out of our

account, put it on that card, so why should that money get taken away from us if we put it on there?" she questioned.

Dawson stated that Student Services has been doing whatever possible to ensure that students would spend their remaining OneCard dollars in the given time frame.

Students were sent monthly e-mails to remind them of the upcoming no rollover deadline, and changes were also made to the OneCard's prime and alternative accounts.

Prime dollars can currently be used at some on-campus coffee outlets such as Tim Horton's, Second Cup and the Library Café.

Also, prime and alternative accounts have, for a limited time, been combined. This combined account applies only to the carry-forward account.

"We actually made that more flexible for students and just created this single account called the On Campus Tax Food Account, so students are allowed to use that money in that fall semester anywhere where food is available on campus," said Dawson.

According to Dawson, Laurier is the only university in Canada that allows students to carry over money from their mandatory meal plan.

"It could be perceived that we were taking something away from our own students; we're still offering something that is better than what you can get at other institutions," he said.

Dawson stated that the changes to the meal plan policy are at the



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

First-year residence students who purchased meal plans in fall 2008 will lose any carry-over dollars in their account on Dec. 31. Any money not spent will be put back into food services at Laurier.

core of creating a more functional and efficient food service division at Laurier.

Re-organizing the financial business plan will allow for equipment renewal, facility upgrades and changes in staffing and hours of operation.

"The meal plan is one piece of the puzzle, by no means do we expect that these changes to the meal plan are going to be the single resolution to solving our financial difficulties, but it's definitely a key piece of the

puzzle because the meal plan program is the one that we build most of our service around."

Despite this, second-year student Michelle Choong explains that she is unhappy with the carry-forward change. "We're already paying thousands of dollars a year; we don't need to give them any more money than we already do.... We paid for it, so why does it expire?"

Dawson explains that the changes to the carry-forward policy are not indefinite and that the meal plan

program is constantly evolving.

"We're trying continually to the make the program as customer friendly as possible, while balancing the needs of making the business viable," said Dawson.

"We think that what we have is still a lot more flexible and a lot more generous than a lot of universities provide, yet at the same time we're trying to put a balanced program together to be able to cover all of our overhead as well. It's a work in progress."

## Laurier student to attend Copenhagen

DAVID GOLDBERG  
WEB EDITOR

When the world's leaders convene in Copenhagen, Denmark on Dec. 7 for the beginning of the 15th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC), third-year Laurier student Emily Slofstra will be there to witness the historic event.

Slofstra will be attending the UNCCC, which coincides with the International Conference of Youth (ICY), as a part of a Canadian youth delegation that also includes 10 students from the University of Waterloo.

The Canadian government has been under immense scrutiny from the international community over their lack of commitment to carbon reduction, so when Slofstra heard about the opportunity, she knew she had to go.

"Everyone is changing ... but Canada is staying the same," she said.

The Alberta tar sands project is just one factor contributing to Canada's growing reputation as an environmentally apathetic state. Canada is even under review for suspension from the Commonwealth for their lack of climate change policies.

Canada's reputation was soiled further when Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on Nov. 18 that he would not be attending the conference. One week later on Nov. 25, U.S. president Obama said he

would be attending. It only took until Nov. 28 and intense public criticism for Harper to reverse his decision regarding his own attendance.

Slofstra said Canadians should be embarrassed about the bad press Canada is receiving, and that representing her country in Copenhagen will hopefully let the world know that there are Canadians who care about the impacts of climate change.

"A lot of us are going because we feel that it's our last chance ... we have to go to Copenhagen, it's the last thing we can do to convince people," she explained.

In addition to educating people from other countries, the delegation will educate people back home.

Through the Canadian-based program The Mass Dialogues, Slofstra and her UW co-delegates will give summaries of the talks everyday via Skype video-conferencing.

The conference will take place between Dec. 7 and Dec. 18; the primary goal of this year's edition will be for UN members to agree on carbon reduction goals starting after 2012 when the failed Kyoto Protocol expires.

Canada has announced prior to the conference that their bid will be to reduce emissions to 20 per cent below 2006 levels by 2020.

**thecord.ca**

Read Emily's blog from Copenhagen online.

## News in brief

### Group seeks to host music therapy conference

A partnership between Canadian charity Room 217 Foundation, the Laurier Centre for Music Therapy Research, the Laurier Centre for Music in the Community and Baycrest Hospital has made it to the second semi-finalist round of a national funding competition.

The group is looking for funding to host a conference in Waterloo that would bring together individuals from across the country to discuss the importance of musical therapy.

Winners will be announced on Jan. 25, 2010.

### Rebound dating aids emotional stability

Anne E. Wilson, a tier-two Canadian research chair in social psychology and psychology professor at Laurier, recently co-authored an article exploring anxiously attached people who are entering new relationships.

The article – written with Geoff MacDonald from the University of Toronto and graduate student Stephanie Spielmann – found that for people who are anxiously attached, a rebound relationship is often helpful in ensuring their emotional stability.

Overall, they concluded that anxiously attached people who remained single after a significant relationship ended were more likely to be stuck on their ex than those who were in new relationships.

–Compiled by Idil Herzi



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Third-year Laurier student Emily Slofstra will be travelling to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in early December.



"I didn't have to write two midterms and missed a lot of classes. It was really easy; I pretty much didn't have to do anything. After you miss your classes and midterms you just fill out the 'swine form.'"

-First-year Laurier student who declared H1N1 even though he did not think he was sick with the flu

## Flu declarations at 2,200

MIKE LAKUSIAK  
STAFF WRITER

In response to concerns of an H1N1 influenza pandemic, Laurier has created an online form that allows students and faculty to declare flu symptoms and excuse themselves from classes or exams without obtaining medical validation.

As of Nov. 30, there have been 2,200 declarations of flu-like symptoms on Laurier's H1N1 pandemic registration database by 1,776 members of the school community. The number of those who declared symptoms on one or more occasion since the system began in early October is equal to 12 per cent of Laurier's total student enrollment.

According to assistant vice-president of academic services Tom Buckley, the system in place came as a result of a request from administration and Health Services for a means of allowing students to report flu-related absences.

"Requiring students to speak to medical practitioners to get notes, often after they are already well, had the potential to prevent healthcare providers from helping sick people," said Buckley.

"Why not in this instance give the students a mechanism to self-report that wouldn't require them to leave home or burden the [healthcare] system after the fact?"

Laurier is not unique in offering this type of system in response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Rates of hospitalization and death continue to rise in Canada, according to the World Health Organization.

"We've had calls from other universities in Ontario asking us to share our solution with them," remarked Buckley about Laurier's program.

"An advantage to this system was to provide more reasonable numbers to Public Health....I think Public Health appreciates that we can provide figures and inform them of the situation on campus."

Though 2,200 may sound like a high number of reports, Buckley noted that there is no "comparator because we haven't done this sort of thing before, with regular seasonal flu for example."

With the implementation of this new system for illness and absence declaration, students no longer need a doctor's note to be excused from class or assignments if they declare flu-like symptoms.

"It's a question of having faith in student self-reporting," noted Buckley.

Second-year psychology student Alana Lancione missed classes and midterms when she was ill earlier this semester. Through declaring her illness online, Lancione was excused from the missed midterms and, after receiving medication for H1N1, recovered.

Lancione was able to avoid exposing other students to the virus by registering her condition, but she speculated that others may have taken advantage of the system. "I think people should have had to go through the clinic to register themselves."

The Cord spoke with a first-year general arts student who also declared symptoms online.

However, he denied ever thinking he had H1N1; when asked if he showed any symptoms as outlined on the H1N1 registration website, he replied, "I only had a cough."

He elaborated, "I didn't have to write two midterms and missed a lot of classes. It was really easy; I pretty much didn't have to do anything. After you miss your classes

and midterms you just fill out the 'swine form.'"

The WLU Student Flu Absence Declaration Form that these students have completed contains a section of the text that reads, "I understand and acknowledge that making a false declaration would constitute academic misconduct and could be subject to sanctions under the Academic Integrity Policies of the University."

Buckley explained that since those who declare symptoms are logging in to the system and indicating that they have read and understand the content, "From an academic regulation, it is binding. If you say you that you have [symptoms] and you have none, then that could be problematic if you are challenged."

The first-year student who declared swine flu said that he had no real concern he would be caught.

"I thought about it a little bit but it seemed too easy." When asked if he thought Laurier did the right thing in offering this option to students he replied, "I guess so, but that's only because it helped me out."

He also indicated that he knew of many other students who had taken advantage of the system as he had.

Despite reported cases of students misusing of the flu declaration form, Buckley still defends the system and those who use it for its intended purpose.

"It's important to recognize that vast majority of students will use the solution in the way it was intended," said Buckley.

"We are all adults; students are members of an academic community. Here's what we've provided as a mechanism for students and faculty to work out assessments in what are somewhat extraordinary circumstances."



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Until Dec. 18, new, unwrapped, non-violent toys can be dropped off at the OneCard Office in the Concourse or at 202 Regina.

## Toy drive underway

OLIVIA NIGHTINGALE  
STAFF WRITER

Classes are ending and exams are quickly approaching; the holiday season is just around the corner.

While most students are looking forward to spending the break with loved ones, exchanging gifts and celebrating, Laurier is providing an opportunity to give back to those who are less fortunate by donating to the university's annual toy drive, which began on Nov. 20.

In the five years since the toy drive started, organizer and Laurier staff member Sarah Wilkinson explains that "each year it just gets better."

When she took over planning the event several years ago, Wilkinson contacted the Waterloo Salvation Army and inquired about what sort of toys they were looking to collect

to see what the Laurier community could contribute to their holiday drive.

Wilkinson explained that she engaged in a big marketing campaign and "put out flyers and announcements online to promote the toy drive."

According to Wilkinson, the response from faculty and students has always been incredible.

Last year, Laurier "collected nine large boxes of toys and raised approximately \$300," which is the largest number of donations the event has ever accumulated.

Wilkinson, however, does not expect to collect as much as in previous years, because of the poor economy. "Due to the difficult year people have had financially, it may not be as easy for everyone to give."

Still, she remains optimistic that people will get into the spirit of giving and participate in the event.

## Class donates \$1,200 to local charity

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
SPORTS EDITOR

What started as a class requirement has become an incredible act of charity, as the 54 students in SY216, the Sociology of Aging, have raised \$1,200 for the Alzheimer Society of Kitchener-Waterloo's Out Reach Program.

"This really speaks to the kind of students we have here at Laurier," said course instructor Kimberly Ellis-Hale.

"[The students] have really shown that if you raise the bar high enough and you say 'you're responsible,' of course they'll rise to the occasion. It's really wonderful to see."

SY216 is an investigation of the aging process within the context of today's society.

The requirements of the course range from standard assignments, such as a mid-term and an exam, to more unique aspects like a sociological experiment in which students are made to look old and then go out into society for 40 minutes.

Another component of the course requires students to perform 18-20 hours of volunteer work with seniors through Community Service Learning at Laurier.

This is where the students' donation project began.

"It was noted in class that there wasn't much [charitable work] around the university for Thanksgiving," said Ellis-Hale.

"So I asked the class how they wanted to give back and we decided to set up a bucket in class and the students could give whatever they

wanted, they didn't have to give anything. They would then come up with the ideas about where the money should go."

According to Ellis-Hale, due to financial cutbacks, many nursing homes weren't able to have an employee train students to work in a nursing home. So Charlotte, a representative from the Out Reach Program, did a presentation for the class.

"Charlotte was absolutely wonderful," said Ellis-Hale. "She was so supportive and encouraging; she kept saying 'I know someone in this room is going to find the cure for Alzheimer's.'"

It was largely thanks to that influence, that the students decided to donate the money to the Alzheimer Society of Kitchener-Waterloo's Out Reach Program from 10 possibilities.

"So much of what we cover in class, [the students] see in their placements," said Ellis-Hale.

"Not many people will be lining up to work with seniors, but these students do it, and for many of them it's changed their lives.... I've had students write that it's the best time of their week because they go in and it's not about them anymore."

Now, simply through contributions to the bucket during class and through an additional donation from a member of Community Service Learning at Laurier, the class has raised exactly \$1,216.97.

"Every week the class submits comments on the course and one of the most wonderful things has been in one of the comments from a student, they wrote 'you're right, we really can make a difference,'" said Ellis-Hale.

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# LOCAL

Local Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

## Lighting up the season

SEAN HAYWARD  
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday evening, the annual Wonders of Winter festival of lights held its opening ceremony in Waterloo Park.

The ceremony began with the Waterloo Concert Band playing Christmas songs including "The First Noel," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night" to a large crowd of all ages.

With great anticipation, Mayor Halloran and Bill Weiler, the founder of Wonders of Winter, flipped the imaginary switch, turning on the lights and officially opening the festival. The members of the crowd then dispersed to tour the various displays and to take advantage of horse-drawn trolley rides around the park.

After the ceremony, Weiler explained that he founded the event "to create a festival that would attract both adults and children, would have a children's theme as well as a Christmas theme, and would be free to everyone."

Having seen the displays and experiencing the atmosphere, the reaction of the crowd was overwhelmingly positive.

"This is our first time. It's really nice," said Sandra Dworatzek of Guelph.

Attending for the second year were Lisa and Steve Wienburg of Waterloo and their daughters Anna, six, and Clare, five.

"I really like the fact that you get to see people from the community

out like this and it puts you in the spirit of Christmas," explained Lisa. When asked what her favourite display was, Anna exclaimed, "Santa!"

Wonders of Winter has approximately 50 sponsors this year, including many local businesses.

More than 35 volunteers work with the festival, and about 18 of them helped set up the displays.

"We are self-sustaining, and our partners, mainly the City of Waterloo, assist us in getting the festival ready for December each year," said

Weiler.

While the purpose and commitment remain constant, the festival has grown very much since it first began. "Wonders of Winter has changed from a few lights 16 years ago to include displays that are both static and moving, and each year we have added some new features," Weiler added.

The Wonders of Winter festival runs every evening from Nov. 28 until Jan. 3. Admission is free and donations are accepted.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER  
Waterloo residents attend Wonders of Winter on Saturday evening.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Residents from Northdale critiqued the city's plans for the area.

## Envisioning the future of student housing

from cover

putting yourself in a bad situation," said third-year Laurier student Jackie Dobson, who is chair of the Mayor's Student Advisory Council (MSAC).

"Students [need to] become aware of these issues before they're in these situations, because once you're in these situations you're bounded by a 12-month contract that you can't get out of," added Dobson.

In addition to the physical faults of the area, the relationship between students and permanent residents, including behavioural concerns, were discussed.

"I regret that we're constantly labeling the whole student group as a problem when they're not," said Mayor Brenda Halloran on the frustrated accusations made by some community members.

"There will be a few students that might act up but there are a

thousand, tens of thousands that don't," said Halloran.

The next step for the community had originally included the creation of a small committee to develop a more concrete plan for the area. This was scrapped in favour of allowing city council to draw the options.

Laurier student Asif Bacchus was first to raise the idea of allowing city officials to develop a plan rather than place the burden on community members.

"What's happened at the last few meetings and especially this meeting it's been made really, really clear what the people in that area want," said Bacchus.

"It's time for city council to ... put all those opinions together into a cohesive plan for the future to make what everyone wants a reality."

According to d'Ailly, proposals should be completed in January of next year with a final vision ready for council in March.

## WLUSP Annual General Meeting

Jan 25th

### Positions Available:

President ~ 1 to be elected  
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Nomination Packages available  
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## wluSP Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications

The past seven months have been a time of immense change and growth for Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications. Since May, the staff and volunteers have been working tirelessly to deliver the high quality publications that the Laurier community has come to expect. And our publications continue to prove themselves among the best in the country. In this past year, The Cord was ranked second place for "best overall campus newspaper" by the Canadian Community Newspaper Association and The Keystone yearbook received a first place ranking from the Canadian Yearbook Review.

Since the start of the production year, all of our publications and websites have received full makeovers. The Cord and Blueprint have delivered consistently high quality publications throughout first semester, corresponding the creative new layouts and graphics with outstanding writing and journalism. Complementing these print publications are our newly designed websites, thecord.ca and blueprintmagazine.ca, which offer readers a chance to interact and share opinions online. But as the semester comes to an end, we draw ever closer to the launch of the Student Publications' newest venture. On January 8, 2010, Radio Laurier will officially launch, bringing our community a new forum for information and entertainment.

Through our publications, websites and soon Radio Laurier, Student Publications intends to provide the Laurier community with a forum for open discourse on topics relevant to our readers and listeners. WLUSP seeks to engage, entertain, inform and discuss what is going on around campus and how it affects the campus community every day. WLUSP hopes to encourage students, staff, faculty and community to engage with us by promoting "letters to the editors," distributing a readership survey (online now at thecord.ca), supporting volunteers, endorsing involvement with our board of directors and making The Cord, Blueprint and Radio Laurier easily accessible.

WLUSP continues to grow to better serve the Laurier community but has done so at a time when financial instability is an all too understood problem. The effects of the recession have made their way to Student Publications; advertising revenue is down, external grant funding has all but disappeared and the costs of operating continue to grow. As of January 2010, WLUSP will begin investigating all of its financial options to ensure consistent quality and the continued improvement of our media services. In doing so, we hope to find solutions that will establish WLUSP's long-term stability and ensure we can continue to deliver services that help define the cultural fabric of this campus.

Until then, enjoy your holidays and be sure to pick up the very special Decade In Review edition of The Cord, on stands December 9th.

Sincerely,

Bryn Ossington  
President and CEO  
Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications



# NATIONAL

National Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca

## OUSA lobbies MPPs

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) lobbied over 60 members of provincial parliament on key issues surrounding post-secondary education.

Kory Preston, vice-president of university affairs for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union, and WLUSU president Laura Sheridan participated in the lobby conference, meeting with 34 MPPs.

According to OUSA president Dan Moulton, the three key issues brought forward to the MPPs were quality of education, tuition and student financial assistance.

OUSA feels that student success is determined by the overall quality of education and services available. "What the government is doing to take leadership is ensuring that our institutions have the best programs to support students," said Moulton.

The focus on tuition was a result of investment framework: the province's Reaching Higher plan, expiring this year.

OUSA highlighted the need to maintain regulations on tuition based off the consumer price index to reflect inflation rather than the current arbitrary five per cent inflation cap.

The stance on student financial assistance and the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) reform received a great deal of attention during the lobbying, according to Preston.

"Right now you can get a total of \$11,900 from OSAP, which, as you know and as all the students at Laurier know, \$11,900 is not enough to live for a full year in the city of Waterloo and pay tuition and pay for books," said Preston.

OUSA is recommending that the government raise the maximum loan available to students through OSAP to surpass the poverty lines designated for the province.

Finally, they are pressuring the government to maintain the cap of \$7,000 for loan repayments. Currently when more than \$7,000 in loans are received through OSAP for a year by a student, the difference in funds is repaid in the form of grants. Moulton assured that despite

other political movements currently occurring in the legislature, OUSA's efforts have not been ignored.

"The MPPs at the legislature are committed to these issues and despite the disruptions that are going on, they still want to meet with us and still want to make sure they're discussing the issues that are important to students," said Moulton.

OUSA is expecting positive outcomes from their efforts as early as next year.

"We're expecting that by the time the next budget rolls around for the 2010 year we'll see another investment from the government and we're hoping that investment in post-secondary education will be adequate and address some of these needs," said Preston.

Although ideally the economic benefits will be implemented in next year's budget, Moulton explained that it is not likely for its effects to be seen for another two or three years.

The inclusion of OUSA's recommendations on funding for student services, tuition increase and loan maximums in the budget does however ensure that post-secondary education remains a priority.



COURTESY OF WLUSU PUBLIC AFFAIRS

President of OUSA Dan Moulton, seen here presenting a report earlier this fall, is one of several student leaders lobbying at Queen's Park between Nov. 30 and Dec. 2.

"Despite the economic times that we're in now, the government and the members throughout the house recognize that this is an important

part of our provincial economy and the future of the province relies heavily on post-secondary education," said Moulton.

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**Motion 6:** Be it resolved that the reference to "10 per cent" in Bylaw 1, Article 6.a. be amended to read "20 per cent."

-This motion passed at the CFS AGM has increased quorum for future referendums

# Stricter voting regulations

National lobby group's policies were amended at general meeting on Nov. 25 to 29

**LINDA GIVETASH**  
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

University student associations wanting to petition to create or terminate their membership with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) will have to meet tougher regulations once a newly passed amendment is approved.

"The Canadian Federation of Students is the only student organization in the country that has a referendum-based membership," said Dave Molenhuis, treasurer and chairperson-elect for CFS, in regards to the structure of the national lobbying group that represents over 80 post-secondary student associations.

"The mechanism that students use to initiate a referendum on any membership is by petition."

The motion in question - Motion 6 - looked to increase the number of students petitioning to host a referendum from 10 per cent of the student population at an institution to 20 per cent.

It also aims to limit the number of petitions submitted to host a referendum to every 60 months for

universities and every 36 months for colleges.

Kimalee Phillip, president of the Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, local 78, which presented the motion said that they have "been getting a lot of backlash from the moment we served this motion to be discussed at plenary."

Those opposed to the motion are concerned with the extent of limitations it will now have on member schools.

"With the restrictions put in place by passing this motion, the 20 per cent required signatures, the two referendums in a three-month period and the referendum question being put out there on membership once every five years severely limits what the individual members of the association are able to actually do," said Matt Musson, director of campaigns for local 21, the graduate students' association of the University of Calgary.

Phillip, however, remained supportive of the motion in its passing stating, "We were just really happy that it passed, and I think it showed that CFS is stronger than most people assume, and that we are here for the students."

**"We've been getting a lot of backlash from the moment we served this motion to be discussed at plenary."**

-Kimalee Phillip, president Carleton GSA

As the motion aimed to change the bylaws of the federation, a two-thirds majority was required for it to pass according to the organization's constitution.

"Under Robert's Rules of Order abstentions do not count," noted Molenhuis, thus qualifying the 44:19 vote in favour of the motion, despite the number of schools that abstained.

Despite criticisms, Molenhuis emphasized the democratic

nature of the CFS as all bylaws are constructed by the member organizations.

"The students own the bylaws of the organization, they determine what the bylaws and the structure of the organization look like," said Molenhuis.

Although passed, the amendment has yet to take effect as the Federation must seek further approval by their board of directors since the change affects the constitution and bylaws of the organization.

With 13 schools allegedly having submitted petitions to host referendums, concerns have been raised on what the outcome will be for them.

"My understanding is that [Motion 6] won't effect any petitions that have been received by the national executive at this point," said Molenhuis.

This news, which should be well-received among the petitioning schools, does not appear to have been clearly reiterated to them.

"We're actually uncertain as to what's going to happen and uncertain as to the outcome of this," said Musson.

-With files from Emma Godmere, CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

## Canada in brief

### Shenanigans at Queen's Park

On Nov. 30, Bill Murdoch, MPP for Bruce-Grey Owen Sound, began a protest in the legislature. He wanted further public hearings regarding the proposed 13 per cent harmonized sales tax (HST) outside of Toronto.

Speaker Steve Peters ejected Murdoch from the chambers for having called Liberal MPPs "liars" in reference to the proposed tax. Murdoch refused to leave and was joined by fellow conservative MPP Randy Hillier. Due to the disruption, Peters called the session into recess.

Murdoch and Hillier slept in the opposition lobby on Monday night. It is unclear as to why security prevented them from returning to the legislature Tuesday morning or how long they will continue their protest.

-Compiled by Linda Givetash

### UBC council fumes

VANCOUVER (CUP) - A human rights complaint filed on behalf of the University of British Columbia's student society to the United Nations has caused uproar at the school, leaving the society to ask for the resignation of its president and vice-president external.

-Samantha Jung, The Ubysey

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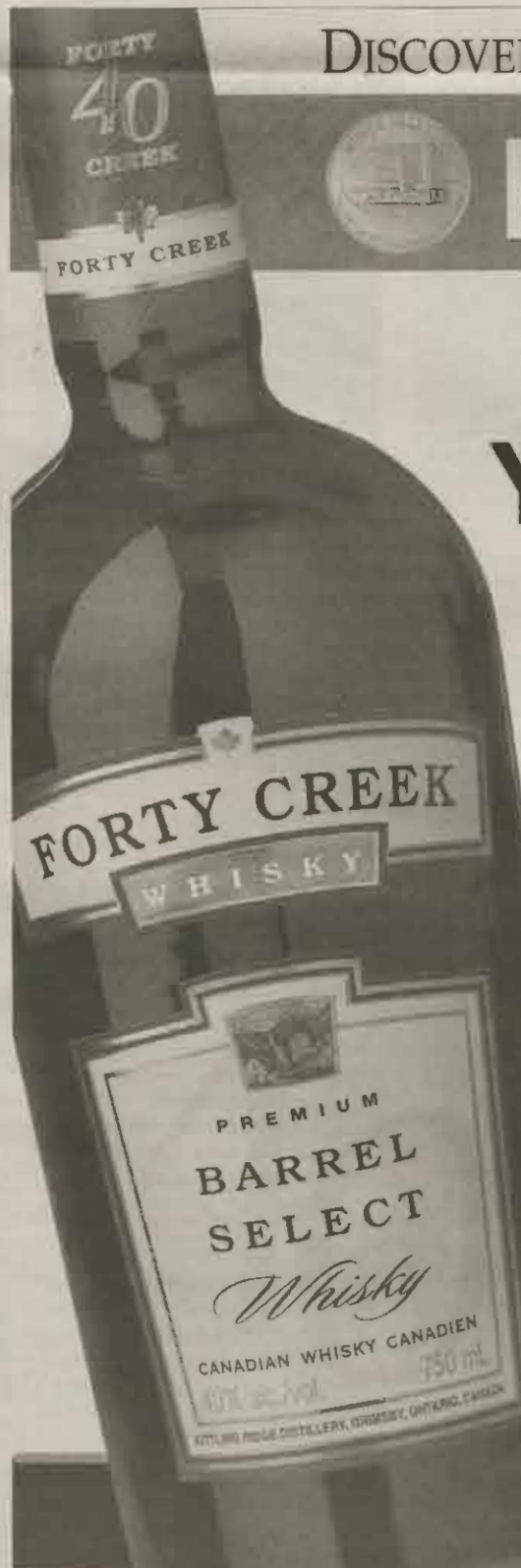
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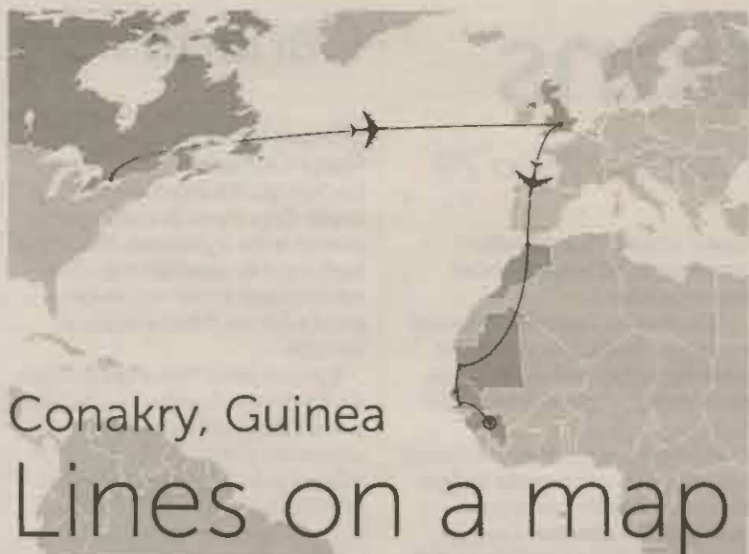
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# INTERNATIONAL

International Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca



**JOSH SMYTH**  
STAFF WRITER

It was blast from an unpleasant past. I was in Guinea this past August, and every night on Guinean television, Monsieur President Capitaine Moussa Dadis Camara would spend two, three, even four hours meeting softball questions with long, rambling diatribes.

He speaks weird French, mostly the stuffy, verbose version spoken by West African functionaries, but liberally sprinkled with all sorts of terminology straight from the revolutionary struggles of the '50s and '60s.

He stares into the camera wearing fatigues, a red beret and sunglasses, every inch the picture of what he is – a junior army officer who somehow managed to take over the country.

Government soldiers opened fire on demonstrators demanding that the captain not stand in the elections he had promised. More than 150 people were killed. Many women were horrifically raped, and regular life in Guinea has been brought to a standstill as the opposition stages a series of strikes.

No one knows how or when elections might occur or what the fate of Camara's junta will be.

Travelling around Guinea before the massacre, the prevailing attitude towards the junta – named with the usual complete lack of irony, The Committee for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD) – was not one of fear. It was an odd mix of derision, mockery and hope.

When the president got up in front of the cameras and spoke about defeating corruption, stopping the drug trade, bringing Guinea out of poverty and asserting its independence, people were watching.

Plenty of people even believed it, or at least said that they did. Then they remembered that the main visible impact of the coup has been the military checkpoints that have sprouted outside every town.

To date, the only purpose of these checkpoints seems to be allowing cash-strapped soldiers to extract \$0.20 bribes from bush-taxi passengers. Every time we passed one of these checkpoints, the car erupted in mockery about 100 metres down the road.

Nevertheless, there was support for the junta, and for a time it was pretty widespread. The coup happened after the death of the last president, Lansana Conte, who had tottered on in power since 1984.

People were tired of him, tired of the ongoing economic collapse, tired of the repression. I never met a Guinean who even held out a hope of democracy emerging anytime soon; in the absence of that, the breath of

fresh air that Camara offered was met with a pretty welcoming reception. Street vendors were doing fine business in Camara stickers and t-shirts, and you often heard quite sincere faith in the man.

To a foreigner like me, this all seemed sadly naïve. The CNDD seemed so obviously a caricature, just another group of army toughs looking to get their hands into the state till for a little while. It did not help that General Camara is, well, pretty silly to listen to.

As he gets more and more excited on whatever topic he's theoretically speaking about, his voice rises up and up in pitch until it cracks like a 13-year-old.

It was also hard to take his leadership seriously when a major topic of his rants became that favourite amongst the insecure authoritarian – plots against the people's government.

While I was meandering towards Guinea through the south of Senegal, Guinean government press releases were warning citizens about anti-government forces, in league with drug cartels, plotting invasions from Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

None of it is true, but external threats are the lifeblood of any insecure regime. The result of this is even more soldiers to demand bribes. To most foreigners, and cynical Guineans, the CNDD's invocation of the international drug threat seemed a transparent plea for aid and attention from the drug-war-obsessed United States.

From this arose derision and mockery. However, there was also plenty of hope that elections will happen as scheduled, that life may get better and that the economy might pick up again.

I can only hope that some of that feeling survived the bullets. For all the apathy I encountered in Guinea, 50,000 people were in the stadium when the troops opened fire. I can only imagine that after the massacre, many of the fence-sitters have turned to opponents. The regime has been discredited. But where does that leave Guineans?

Having popped up on the nightly news for a couple days, they now see their country sinking back to obscurity.

The junta just signed a multi-billion-dollar investment agreement with a Chinese consortium that could well prop them up. The international community talks sanctions, but their efficacy is pretty dubious. Perhaps the best we can do is simply keep paying attention.

There has been a great deal of real progress towards democracy and better governance in Africa over the past years. Guineans deserve more than to see history repeated.

*Josh Smyth is an alumnus of Wilfrid Laurier University. His column "Lines on a Map" will be a recurring feature in Cord International. It will document Josh's travel adventures throughout Western Africa. In September 2009, Josh Smyth was travelling in Guinea and wrote this column.*

## A current conflict in historical perspective

Laurier professor Kevin Spooner lectures on the evolving United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**ALANNA WALLACE**  
IN DEPTH EDITOR

Last Wednesday at the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, Laurier North American studies professor Kevin Spooner presented a lecture on Canada's involvement in the peace-keeping effort in the Congo between 1960 and 1964.

"There's very limited historical scholarship on Canadian peace-keeping in this historical period," explained Spooner about his over-a-decade-long research project, a subject he has been working on since the early '90s.

Spooner gave an in-depth look into the violence that occurred after the Congo gained its independence from Belgium in 1960. Unrest followed for the years after the declaration of independence, including Belgian paratrooper deployment to the area, Katangan attempts to gain independence, and a power struggle among Congolese political figures.

The violence that ensued led to United Nations peacekeeping force Opération des Nations Unies au Congo (ONUC) deployed to the area. At its peak, some 20,000 UN soldiers were sent to what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). John Diefenbaker, the Canadian prime minister at the time, sent Canadian signalers who were valuable assets to the mission because of their bilingualism.

Spooner interestingly outlined how the ONUC peacekeeping force's role "broke all the precedents" of Cold War intervention.

"Typically, peacekeeping was used between states ... whereas the peacekeeping mission in the Congo was entirely within the state," explained Spooner.

He also outlined how ONUC's mandate was expanded to include "maintaining the territorial integrity of the country," "preventing civil war" and "securing the removal of all foreign military personnel," which led to the enabling of an increased use of force.

"This is a much more ambitious agenda," concluded Spooner. "In the end ... [ONUC] managed to accomplish its mandate for the most part."

In terms of how the conflict has affected peacekeeping today, although Spooner did not delve into the issue extensively, it was clear this mission is still important almost 50 years later.

"The cost was \$400 million," Spooner said.

"The debt crisis the United Nations consistently has today is partially the result of this because it couldn't afford the peacekeeping mission and it kept borrowing money to pay for it, in part because the Soviet Union and France refused to pay their portion of the cost of the mission."

Spooner also addressed Canada's declining role as peacekeepers on the global scale.

"There is a tremendous irony here because Canadians tend to identify themselves and the nation as a whole as a peacekeeping nation," said Spooner. "The reality is that we haven't been peacekeeping in any meaningful and significant way for about a decade now."

Today, the Mission of the United Nations Organization in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is operational in the country.

Spooner's lecture gave insight into Canadian involvement in a significant peacekeeping mission that still resonates today despite a lack of Canadian involvement in the conflict.

### Congo figures

As of Sept. 30, 2009:

**18,606**

The number of total uniformed personnel

**16,826**

The number of troops included in previously mentioned statistic

**692**

Number of military observers

**1,088 and 1,006**

The number of police and international civilian personnel currently on the ground

**2,539**

Local civilian staff

**615**

UN volunteers

**150**

Number of deaths of these personnel recorded thus far

**\$1.35 billion**

The approved budget for July 1 2009 to June 30 2010 MONUC mission in the DRC

### MONUC

Mission of the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

## World in brief

### CADIZ, SPAIN

Seven bulls have escaped on the set of *Knight & Day*, a film starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz, directed by James Mangold.

According to Salon News, the bulls rampaged through the downtown area through to the nearby beach, slightly injuring two people. —Compiled by Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

### BEIJING, CHINA

According to the BBC, two people have been executed over last year's baby milk scandal that has left six dead and thousands ill.

The baby milk powder was said to contain melamine, a chemical used as a countertop varnish. —Compiled by Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

### KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

USA Today has reported that a new sport called Buzkashi, or "goat grabbing," has swept the Afghan nation.

Aspiring to become an Olympic sport, Buzkashi involves fighting over a headless animal's carcass on horseback. —Compiled by Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

### BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The BBC reports that Rom Houben, diagnosed as being in a vegetative

state 23 years ago, appears to have been conscious the whole time.

Originally it was believed to be in an irreversible coma; however, it appears he was simply unable to communicate. —Compiled by Alexandros Mitsiopoulos

### BOLOGOYE, RUSSIA

The *Moscow Times* reports that an explosion triggered by seven kilos of TNT caused the derailment of the luxury Nevsky Express.

While the Russian press has laid blame on Chechen separatists, no group has yet to claim responsibility for the act.

After a second bombing of a train in Dagestan Monday, the Kremlin denounced both attacks as acts of terror. —Compiled by Paula Millar

### WASHINGTON, U.S.

According to the *New York Times*, stigma of social welfare fades as use of the once scorned United States food stamp program soars to record numbers.

Reportedly, food stamps feed one in eight American adults and one in four children today. —Compiled by Paula Millar

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# FEATURE

Features Editor Shannon Busta • sbusta@thecord.ca



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Team Stashmo at 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 1, excited to go home and shave off their mustaches.

SHANNON BUSTA  
FEATURES EDITOR

**M**ovember has come to an end, and once again the faces of men are clean and cold.

If you still don't know what Movember is, let me briefly explain why there has been a sudden influx in the amount of shocking face warmers on campus.

Movember began in 2003 when a

group of friends in Australia decided it was time to bring the moustache back. Of the many nick names given to the infamous mustache – lady tickler, fanny duster and stash – mo is the most popular in Australia.

This is where the term "Movember" comes from.

I'm sure many of you are aware that rocking a mo is a brave move since it tends to attract a ridiculous amount of attention. The creative men who started Movember decided they would use this attention to

raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer.

Six years later, hundreds of thousands of men have decided to do the same, resulting in millions raised thanks to this small facial accessory. Sometimes simplest approach is the best.

Prostate cancer has flown under the radar for far too long, especially considering one in six men will be diagnosed with it at some point in their life.

"This is such a basic way to

increase awareness," said Matt Gillick, a member of Laurier's Team Stashmo, in reference to his choice to rock a mustache this past month.

The seven men who made up Laurier's Team Stashmo made a promise to raise as much awareness and money as they could over the month of Movember.

So how did they do after a month of growth? Remarkably well.

Will Jardine, John Kennedy, Mike Greenway, Matt Gillick, Josh Gould, Aaron Tsarfati and Brent Gillard committed to a month of attention-grabbing facial hair in support of prostate cancer awareness; with a budget of nothing, these men have raised \$934.01.

More than just raising money and awareness, Movember has gone back to the basics with charity and fundraising, reminding us all that sometimes less is more.

"I 100 per cent made people more aware," Gillick said.

Team Stashmo was founded by Will Jardine after he heard about Movember on YouTube.

Movember has grown in popularity so quickly, in part thanks to its online presence. With promotional videos and a user-friendly, fun website, the foundation has made it easy for men to form mustache-growing teams, raise money and get educated about prostate cancer.

Canada has raised close to seven million dollars, putting us in second place globally behind Australia.

"I feel like it is a point of pride," Jardine said in reference to the overwhelming support.

"I think because of how diverse we are as a country, we are ready to take on different issues," added Gillick.

Regardless of the reasons, Canada has proven that we are both charity minded and pro-cancer awareness.

Movember and Team Stashmo should be looked upon as an example of successful and simple charity at its best. Join the team next year and be a part of something great.

## Funds raised

**\$15,717,488**

Australia

**\$6,619,597**

Canada

**\$6,395,101**

U.K.

**\$2,717,956**

U.S.

**\$1,095,939**

Ireland

**\$531,470**

New Zealand

**\$934.01**

Team Stashmo



Will Jardine, team captain  
The recovering coke addict mo  
31 days of growth



John Kennedy  
The Hollywood mo  
31 days of growth



Mike Greenway  
The defiant ginger mo  
31 days of growth



Josh Gould  
The sombrero mo  
31 days of growth



Matt Gillick  
The porn star mo  
31 days of growth

You are cordially invited to celebrate

## The 60th Annual Boar's Head Dinner

December 7th, 2009 \$20  
The Turret Nightclub

Greek Olympiad Celebration  
Doors: 6:30pm Dinner served: 7:30pm  
Semi-formal attire required

Tickets on Sale until December 3rd!  
Tickets Available at **THE Centre Spot**



# Managing the distance

Technology makes keeping in touch easier, but the impact it has on relationships is not so black and white

## Keeping intimate

Trying to keep the spice alive and diminishing the possibility of wandering eyes can dominate the minds of long-distance couples. Those interviewed explain the intricacies of how technology can play a critical role in the upkeep of intimacy. Stay creative and read these suggestions.

### Care packages

-Cosmopolitan magazines with articles highlighted and marked with things you want to do, like handcuffs, blindfolds and sexy photos.

-Familiar things such as favourite foods or gifts.

-If your loved one is sick, send soups, teas and medication so your partner doesn't have to do all the dirty work themselves.

### Phone/video sex

-Phone sex is best executed when one person tells the other what they like done to them by the other person. Include your vibrator or just manually masturbate; moaning is always helpful, but being focused is important.

-Laughing can ruin a good phone sex session.

"If you're going to have phone sex you might as well do it over Skype so you can see something....It's nice to see him getting turned on. I do a strip tease, I have a vibrator and we both masturbate at the same time." - Anonymous

### Naughty photos

-Sending photos over cell phones or e-mail.

"This one time when I was younger and we started dating I took this picture in my bra and I sent it to him. Then his dad transferred files from my boyfriend's computer to his computer. One day I'm sitting in the living room and I see this bra picture go by on the slide show....No one saw it but I was mortified." - Anonymous

### Rules to prevent disappointment

"The first day [when we see each other again], no sex ... ever. There is too much pressure, we would get in a fight the first day always, you just want everything to be perfect but it's not." - Art James

### Letters: yes, they still exist

"I sent five or six letters a summer. It's more personal, it's more than reading something off a screen....I'll send it with a picture of when I last saw him that I know he didn't have. I didn't tell him about it and he really liked that." - Anonymous

### Text Messages

-Simple phrases like "I love you" and "I miss you" can let your partner know what's on your mind.

KIMBERLY ELWORTHY  
OPINION EDITOR

Love is worth a lifetime of dedication. It is the rare light at the end of the dreary tunnel on the banal journey through life.

One would not have an epic love story without the necessary physical distance between two lovers challenging their devotion and tearing their hearts into pieces every second they are apart.

However, in a contemporary context, long-distance love stories are no longer defined by romantic letters but by the prevalence of communication technology.

University is the optimal place to find long-distance relationships mitigated by technology. In order to follow one's dreams and expectations one is often driven out of one's hometown, sometimes even country, to pursue an education.

The long-distance relationship is practically inevitable, especially for university students, but all too often those immersed in technology in an attempt to keep in touch with their significant other become obsessed with the standstill their relationship comes to when they find themselves far apart.

By using communication technology and participating in online arenas, couples can further their connection and allow their relationship to evolve. However, technology can transform a relationship and has a tendency to foster hardships for the couple.

This seemingly artificial environment has drastically altered what it means to be in a long-distance relationship.

There is now unlimited access to cheap technology that can bring lovers in front of each other immediately, at least within the world of cyberspace.

It has also created a new realm where couples meet online first.

For example, Kiri Ipsen, a student at McMaster, met her Australian boyfriend Brad online and, to the dismay of her family, united with him overseas when she moved there for a year-long exchange.

"My mom thought that I was going to be kidnapped or murdered. My friends thought I was nuts," she recalls.

### How has technology changed our relationships?

Alexandra Boutros, a communications professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, explained her unique outlook on how technology has affected our most intimate relationships.

"It's tempting to say that new media and new technologies are changing our relationships.... The thing that has changed is that we always have it on, we never turn it off," said Boutros.

"Part of what new technology has changed for us isn't exactly how we interact with each other ... but it's the time and the scope, it's the pace of our lives that has changed," she added.

Constant access to partners that are further away can sometimes lead to obsession, as it can be addictive to want to know information about what is going on in the lives of loved ones.

"One of the most significant reasons we do choose to always be on call is for the idea that access to information, even the smallest amount of information, signifies status and power," said Boutros. "Having access to information all the time is a type of power and it is very addictive ... it becomes very difficult to say, 'oh I don't need to check Facebook today.'"

Couples who do choose to not partake in the latest technology often face alienation from peers for not participating in this shared social experience.

"The problem is with people who choose not to engage in mobile communication ... find themselves making this choice within a social environment. They are not passively choosing not to have a cell phone, they are making a statement," said Boutros.

### When Facebook rears its ugly head

It is not uncommon for couples to check their partner's Facebook page (or even sign on as them), just to make sure everything is as they expected. But in long-distance relationships Facebook can act as a policing system, which can lead to impromptu fighting.

Laurier student Alison Price found out that a past boyfriend was secretly keeping in contact with

ex-girlfriend when he left his Facebook account active on her computer.

Now, she says she her current boyfriend talk on the phone and rarely use Facebook for communication.

Like Price, many couples avoid having Facebook relationships or find that snooping means there is mistrust in the relationship.

Jessica Botelho is an international student at Laurier and has been in a long-distance relationship for two years while her boyfriend, Jonathan Perry, goes to school in Chicago.

"I'm not worried, if you're doing stuff like [snooping Facebook] it's because you're worried, you don't trust that person," said Botelho.

It's important to understand why people feel the need to publicize their relationships on this social networking tool and how it affects the way people interact.

Boutros explained that "saying that you have a relationship on Facebook is a way of validating that relationship; it's our way of saying 'this is true.'"

"We gossiped about people before Facebook, we worried what our partners were doing at work.... But with Facebook we have to re-negotiate these issues.

We have to decide what we are going to keep private and what is at stake in making the relationship public," she added.

### Managing the stress

It's difficult in university to cope with the intensity of school and living the student lifestyle when there is also a responsibility and a commitment to someone who is not within one's physical environment.

Building and sustaining a healthy relationship with the added stress of long-distance takes a lot of time and investment that is often overlooked.

Laurier student Katherine Tomlinson has been dating her boyfriend Tyler Carlson for four years; three of them have been long-distance.

"I just feel like he's like my best friend, he's more than just my boyfriend. Whenever I'm really upset about something or I can't really communicate with anyone else, it's frustrating that he's not here to console me or make me feel better," said Tomlinson.

On the other hand, long-distance relationships can offer more time to dedicate to school than other relationships, as the person isn't right in front of you.

"It's easier around this time of year, I don't have that added person I have to pay attention to," said Laurier student Elyse Wach who works to maintain her two-year relationship with Ryan Celusta from Washington state.

### An artificial environment

Being in a long-distance relationship for the majority of the year is useful, but it can also impose artificiality on the connection.

While technology quickens access to information, it can also create unrealistic alterations to real identity. Text messages, e-mails and Facebook let users present certain components of their personality as they have more time, face-to-face encounters, to convey how they want to be perceived.

Art James, an actor, on several occasions found himself in a long-distance relationship with his now-wife Mandy James. Although he tended to avoid using a lot of technology, he believes there are times when using technology becomes advantageous - phones can hide his emotions if he is irritated with a partner.

"[Phones] are awesome. When I'm on the phone and I'm angry she can tell unless I want her to.... I can be how annoyed I get," said James.

Price agrees that using technology as her main method of contact with her boyfriend opt to keep in contact about four times a day, often through text message.

She says she avoids Facebook the most part, but when she does something online that she doesn't like, she said "I don't usually talk up [with him] because it's just making me jealous."

While Price avoids some of the technology for fear it may create negative to her healthy long-distance relationship, some of the technology she uses to maintain their relationship have a tendency to falsify relationships from a distance.

"I think we are careful about how we present ourselves in an online environment," agrees Boutros. "I'm wondering if we aren't also a bit afraid about how we present ourselves that we call 'real life.'"

Boutros also comments on the intimacy that is involved in long-distance relationships and that text or e-mailing has a long time to think about. It is this disconnect that can lead to self-misinterpretation, false accusations by partners of a long-distance relationship.

"We can think about what we can be more careful than we are always in a face-to-face relationship," she comments.

But Boutros questions the reality to which partners can create an image of themselves, and the distance which they can lie at a distance through technology.

"We may not have that much to really think that much about we present ourselves.... Do we

### The panel: Is

“If you are a sneaky and conniving girlfriend ... it's not good for the relationship. But if you trust each other, it's useful.”

-Katherine Tomlinson



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Does using technology to maintain a relationship create an environment where couples can be false versions of themselves?



# ice

and white

## an artificial environment

ing in a long-distance relationship the majority of the year is stress-ful, but it can also impose artificiality on the connection.

While technology quickens access to information, it can also facilitate unrealistic alterations to one's identity. Text messages, e-mail, phones and Facebook let users hide certain components of their personality as they have more time, versus face-to-face encounters, to consider how they want to be perceived.

Art James, an actor, on several occasions found himself in a long-distance relationship with his now wife, Andy James. Although he tends to avoid using a lot of technology in general, he believes there are times when using technology becomes advantageous — phones can hide his facial expressions if he is irritated with his partner.

"[Phones] are awesome. When I'm on the phone and I'm angry she can't see it unless I want her to.... I can hide how annoyed I get," said James.

Price agrees that using the phone is the main method of contact. She and her boyfriend opt to keep in contact about four times a day, often casually through text message.

She says she avoids Facebook for the most part, but when she does find something online that she doesn't like, she said "I don't usually bring it [with him] because it's just me being jealous."

While Price avoids some forms of technology for fear it may contribute negativity to her healthy long-distance relationship, some argue that the use of the technologies Price uses have a tendency to falsify relationships from a distance.

"I think we are careful about how we present ourselves in an online environment," agrees Boutros. "But I'm wondering if we aren't also careful about how we present ourselves in what we call 'real life.'"

Boutros also comments on a lack of intimacy that is involved in long-distance relationships and that texting e-mailing has a long time frame. Is this disconnect that can lend itself to misinterpretation, falsities or deceit by partners of a long-distance relationship?

"We can think about what we say and be more careful than if we are talking in a face-to-face relationship," she comments.

But Boutros questions the extent to which partners can create a false image of themselves, and the extent to which they can lie at a distance using technology.

"We may not have that much time to really think that much about how we present ourselves.... Do we really

have time to construct a false image of ourselves? Probably not," said Boutros.

## Physical distance

Even though the world may feel like it's shrinking with communication technologies, it's important not to forget that physical distance still imposes limitations on the accessibility of one's partner.

Travelling is a large component of maintaining relationships, which takes time out of an already substantial schedule, especially as a university student. Transportation and time are important elements in the reality of a long-distance relationship.

"In the past I have taken buses down to Chicago which were ridiculous 24-hour trips [twice each semester].... I've also taken a flight to Chicago, it's a lot faster and you end up spending more time together," said Botelho.

Price also mentions an added stress in finding the time to visit her boyfriend.

"The first thing I do as I'm leaving is try to think of the next time I can figure out my life to get back up to [see him]," said Price, who normally takes the Greyhound bus to see her boyfriend, who lives four hours away.

Tomlinson finds that although she and her boyfriend don't live very far from each other and have vehicles, it still becomes hard to make time.

"His work schedule is weekends ... and I can't really go home in the

week. We both have jobs and working around those schedules and my school schedule, it's really hard ... especially around [November]," said Tomlinson.

Distance took on an entirely new level for Ipsen, who met her boyfriend on the social networking site RSVP before her exchange to Australia.

"We first started on MSN, which lasted maybe a bit over a week. We went from there to Skype, so we knew what each other looked like," said Ipsen, who explained that speaking online made the transition to physical contact much easier.

"When we met it was weird, I thought I knew him so well. The first time we spoke it was for over 14 hours [on MSN] and then after that a few hours every day," continued Ipsen.

After their year together in Australia, Brad immigrated to Canada where they both now live in Hamilton. He works full-time while Ipsen is in fourth year at McMaster

## Cyberspace and beyond

Technology is changing infinitely, so much so that it becomes impossible to predict what the future has in store.

However, online phenomenon Second Life shines a light onto the possibilities. The website describes itself as, "A free 3D virtual world where users can socialize, connect and create using free voice and text chat."

Similar to the Sims or World of Warcraft, people create avatars and the lives they have always dreamed of living. There are around 15 million registered users of Second Life with an average of 70,000 people logged on at any one time.

Boutros sheds some light on the scholarship surrounding it.

"Now I think the scholarship is more interested in mixed reality," she said. "There are real people, with real lives and complicated lives behind these online identities and we're interested in how people move from online to offline experiences."



PHOTO BY NICK LACHANCE; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MAYA UEMURA

## What technologies are people using?

**MSN Instant Messenger** allows people to write, call or video call any contact.

**Skype** uses a headset and offers both calling and video chat for free.

**Facebook** is a social networking website that also includes chat and e-mail.

**MySpace** is a social networking website that includes e-mail.

**Twitter** allows members to update their status — usually mundane aspects of life.

**E-mail** has numerous free outlets such as Hotmail and Gmail (including Gmail chat).

**Computer games and online programs** offer chat spaces, including Second Life.

**BlackBerry** cell phones allow owners to access the Internet anywhere and use BlackBerry Messenger (BBM).

All **cell phones** have text messaging, and some offer a two-way radio.

**Xbox and PlayStation** support online team gaming with headset and Internet connections.

## the panel: Is technology beneficial to long-distance relationships?

"If you are a sneaky and cunning girlfriend, it's not good for the relationship. But if you just each other, it's useful."

—Catherine Tomlinson

"If it wasn't for technology, my relationship wouldn't be the same.... It's such a difference to see him and hear him at the same time."

—Laura Catalano

"Communicating is important. It's easier not to bottle things up over weeks of not seeing him which come out when I do see him."

—Ciara McVicar

"If you're not going to be honest online you'll be found out eventually and it's a waste of time for everyone involved."

—Kiri Ipsen

"If you only get to be with them for a while, you never really figure that out until you are no longer long-distance."

—Jessica Botelho



## ARTS

Arts Editor Rebecca Vasluianu • [rvasluianu@thecord.ca](mailto:rvasluianu@thecord.ca)

## Examining life with puppets

Showings of Avenue Q took place Tuesday, Nov. 24 and Wednesday, Nov. 25 at Centre in the Square

KEVIN HATCH  
STAFF WRITER

Drinking, sex, bad decisions, friendship, an existential struggle for identity and meaning and puppets.

It's hard to envision a single show that could have better encapsulated the essence of being a university student than the boldly unique and consistently hilarious *Avenue Q*.

Last Tuesday's performance of the off-Broadway production (which opened at Kitchener's Centre in the Square) detailed the exploits of a community of post-graduates – some puppets, some humans – and their intertwining struggles to pay rent while trying to figure out their lives on the side.

Watching the performance could hardly have felt more eerily well-timed for any student, with the end of term heralding many similar sentiments of listlessness and a search for purpose like those expressed by the characters of the show.

Upon the opening song number questioning what to do with a BA in English, several groans amongst the laughter from the audience suggested that the subject matter holding a particular degree of resonance for more audience members than would likely care to admit it.

However, the cutting wit and daring willingness to shirk standards of political correctness for the sake of insightful commentary (with infamous songs like "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist" and "The Internet is for Porn" evoking even heartier laughs for daring to say what most have likely thought but seldom vocalize) made the show just as accessible and relevant for any in the audience, not just students.



COURTESY OF AVENUE Q

Puppeteers performing a scene from *Avenue Q*, a musical inspired by *Sesame Street* addresses issues facing young adults today.

*Avenue Q* made use of a boldly minimalist set and cast, with many puppeteers trading characters as dictated by the requirements of the scene.

The show boasted a welcome, down to earth approach, which made the subject matter ring all the more meaningful.

If a complaint could be made about the evening, it was that the show's technical work appeared unnecessarily plagued with problems.

It seemed as if the sound and light teams of the Centre in the Square and the production itself had insufficient time to work out a proper collaboration.

On several occasions, spotlights would come on in the wrong places and have to be hastily corrected, and the microphone volume would often drop to slightly lower than the comfortable range.

This made audiences at the back have to strain to hear the lyrics to some of the songs.

Nonetheless, such concerns proved minimal, ultimately in keeping with the night's overall endearing, down-to-earth feeling, making *Avenue Q* an overall exceptional experience – a night of insight, laughs, food for thought and a new respect for the theatrical capabilities of puppets.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

## Matthew Good rocked out at Centre in the Square on Monday

[thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca)

Read the full story and see more photos of the concert online.

## A trend in new music: Dubstep

The Cord explores this innovative style

NIKICIA PHILLIPS  
STAFF WRITER

Some music you can get away with listening to on crappy computer speakers. With dubstep, you'll just feel ripped off.

Dubstep (sometimes called "dark garage") is a relatively new genre of electronic music that – although it has been around for over a decade in the U.K. – has recently gained popularity in Canada.

Its mish-mash of various sounds is what makes it so appealing. A conglomeration of electronic, 2-step, garage, grime, reggae and hip-hop, it is marked by a signature heavy bass.

Evolving from drum and bass (dnb) and garage, dubstep "is a real smorgasbord of music," explains Jake Langmuir, a.k.a. DJ Dubconscious.

Despite his humble attempt to downplay this title, Langmuir is arguably a pioneer in the Canadian dubstep scene – he's been spinning this type of music for five years now, even though it just started to catch on in Toronto this past fall.

A Toronto native and UBC graduate, he has floated between the east

and west coasts spinning dubstep at popular venues.

For the past three years, Langmuir has maintained a weekly residency at Thymeless on College Street in Toronto alongside the infamous Dubslingers Crew.

Not a static genre by any means, a single dubstep set can incorporate sounds of heavy metal, hip-hop, reggae and electro-dance.

Langmuir explains that, unlike its close relative dnb, there are no concrete subgenres in dubstep – everyone adds their own flavor.

The one constant is the severe bass that permeates throughout each track.

Similar to the feeling you get when you've realized you've fallen in love with the same person who will end up destroying you, the bass hits you hard, leaving you stunned and helpless.

It's slow, dark and heavy, yet strangely calming. You just stand there and go "whoa."

Check out some of the big names in dub-step: Rusko, Benga, Caspa, Skream and Joker. A quick search of these names will lead you to others, and from there you can find your sound.

Read the full story online at [thecord.ca](http://thecord.ca)



## Films opening over the holidays

### Invictus

Dec. 11  
Directed by: Clint Eastwood  
Starring: Matt Damon, Morgan Freeman

### Avatar

Dec. 18  
Directed by: James Cameron  
Starring: Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver

### It's Complicated

Dec. 25  
Directed by: Nancy Meyers  
Starring: Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin

### Nine

Dec. 25  
Directed by: Rob Marshall  
Starring: Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard

### Sherlock Holmes

Dec. 25  
Directed by: Guy Ritchie  
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Rachel McAdams

## New collection of feminist readings launches at Laurier

Professor Paul Tiessen was influential in exposing one of the authors featured

JESSICA HOWELL  
STAFF WRITER

The celebratory book launch of a new novel – which explores the historical context of feminist literature – took place at Laurier on Thursday in the faculty of arts lounge.

The book, *Wider Boundaries of Daring: The Modernist Impulse in Canadian Women's Poetry*, is a demonstration of Canadian literary modernism through a collection of work by feminist writers who were very prominent in the modernist movement.

The editors of the book, Di Brandt and Barbara Godard, collaborated to compile this collection, which was 10 years in the making.

At the launch, Brandt wanted to tribute the event to her co-editor Goddard, who was unable to attend, stating the book truly was a credit to her.

"She has so much knowledge and knows how to rattle it off," she said, adding, "Barb has a fierce eye on what's happening everywhere."

The book itself puts women back into the genealogy of history during modern times and drastically changes it.

Brandt explained how men were the only ones who had access to the creation of anthologies; therefore, book-length studies in the past have only given brief references to women.

For this reason, Brandt and Goddard began their collaborative project. It contributes to changing the shape and meaning of feminist modernism in the Canadian literary scene.

"It's a fab read and I think a very important book," said Brandt.

The book is important in bringing together the works of many female poets, critics and writers into one place, which is exactly what Brandt and Goddard have done.

Listening to Brandt, her passion about the book and of poetry itself was evident.

She read a small excerpt from the afterward that she had written:

“

[The novel is about] being able to rethink the future by having a vision.”

—Di Brandt, editor of *Wider Boundaries of Daring*

"There is a mystery from the heart of poetry."

The book was well received during the launch by both students and professors.

Tanis MacDonald, assistant professor in Laurier's department of English and film studies stated, "I will probably use it in my graduate course next year."

But the question remains: why is the book so dear to the heart of the English department?

Paul Tiessen, a professor of English and film studies, was a large influence in the editors' selection of which writings to include or not within the book.

Tiessen has done a lot of work on modernist writing in Canada and he was part of a very early conference on the work of poet and journalist Dorothy Livesay.

Her literary writings pre-date the male writers, and are therefore included in *Wider Boundaries of Daring*.

Tiessen was one of the first to acknowledge the profound nature of her work.

While speaking with MacDonald, Livesay explained Tiessen's strong influence, stating that, "When Brandt and Goddard were putting the collection together, they kept coming back to Paul's work and saying he was the first one to say this."

Brandt describes the book as a conventional way of following the footsteps of female modern poets and writers about "being able to rethink the future by having a vision."



COURTESY OF KEROSINE MEDIA

Mad Child, in the front seat, and Prevail, in the passenger seat, of Canadian rap-act Swollen Members.

## Back to music

Discussing Canadian hip-hop act Swollen Members' new album and bandmate Mad Child's struggle with drug addiction

LAURA SEDGWICK  
STAFF WRITER

Canadian hip-hop artist Prevail of Swollen Members thought he wanted a question mark on his tombstone when he died, but after further reflection decided he'd prefer an exclamation point.

If he were to die six months from now, he'd spend at least some of that time in Europe.

"I think I'd try to BASE jump off the Eiffel tower," he told *The Cord* in a phone interview.

"One thing I'd want to do for sure is drive the racetrack at Evergreens Formula One track in Germany. And, also, there is a restaurant in Spain called elBulli that I'd want to go to."

In 10 years, Prevail hopes "to be on a beach working on [short stories and novels] and watching [Canadian hip-hop artist] Tre Nycce winning Grammy awards on TV."

Until then, Prevail is more than content rapping alongside Mad Child in the Canadian rap mogul Swollen Members.

"We come from similar but different backgrounds," said Prevail on his relationship with Mad Child.

"I think you'll find that although we have a lot of the same underlying goals in life we have different ways of thinking how we should get there, which is great because it leads to open conversation."

"We play the devil's advocate to each other in a lot of situations. That's why we named the first album *Balance* – because we bring that out in each other."

Prevail compared himself and Mad Child to a yin-yang; Prevail is the black and Mad is the white, both literally and figuratively.

When Prevail and Mad Child first started making music together and getting into the industry, they didn't know what to expect.

"We were just making music for the love of making music," he said.

"And we still are," he adds referring to Swollen's new album, *Armed to the Teeth*. "But now that we've already had some success, we know what it takes to get to the top."

And they plan to do just that. Swollen Members is seeking to re-establish their career in

Canada after a difficult time working to overcome Mad Child's drug addiction.

"Mad has a very strong personality," said Prevail on Mad Child's drug trouble.

"I think what happened with him and the pharmaceutical run is that a certain part of his personality was tapped into that for a certain amount of time that was pleasurable to him."

Prevail explained that Mad Child quickly realized that the pleasure he felt was false and being induced purely by the drugs.

On how Mad Child overcame his addiction, Prevail explained, "He did it himself, pure mental determination."

"I actually saw the change in his eyes when he wanted to start quitting. He wanted to quit, it wasn't people saying 'dude, it's time for you to quit, this is ridiculous.' He actually just realized that it was time for him to quit and it was a road to recovery from that moment forward."

*Swollen Members will perform their signature sound, "Dark, brooding, with heavy lyrics and beats," on Dec. 3 at the Starlight.*



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# LIFE

Life Editor Dave Shore • dshore@thecord.ca

## Tips for this season's aspiring party crashers

NIKICIA PHILLIPS  
STAFF WRITER

Mother Theresa. Nelson Mandela. Princess Diana. For some people, these individuals are idols.

Tareq and Michael Salahi are my heroes. The night of Nov. 24, 2009, they decided to go out for dinner together. However, they didn't go to the typical Italian restaurant down the street. Rather, they walked into the White House and sat down for an official state dinner in honor of the Indian prime minister.

Unlike the other 300 high-profile reporters, celebrities and politicians that attended, the Salahis weren't invited. They knew no one there and were people of relatively little status in the D.C. area.

Essentially, they crashed the White House dinner. How they passed through security is beyond government officials and is currently under investigation.

The pair's antics were discovered when the Salahis felt the need to upload some pictures taken at the dinner to their Facebook. These two nobodies had pictures of them socializing with Rahm Emmanuel, Joe Biden and even Barack Obama.

Some people ask why anyone would want to attend (crash) a party they weren't invited to where they don't know anyone. Clearly these

people do not get a kick out of pulling off such a caper where you get to make up an alter ego and the respective details about a completely fake life you live, usually while eating and drinking on someone else's tab.

As a moderate party crasher myself, I have learned a few tricks along the way. If you get creative, you can find some good parties to crash this holiday season. Here are some tips to help get you started:

**1. Always dress the part.** The way you look and present yourself significantly influences how much you can get away with, while giving a good indication that you "fit in."

**2. Act like you're supposed to be there.** Underpinning this rule is George Costanza's maxim that "it's not really a lie if you believe it."

I once successfully crashed the General Electric CEO's box at a Washington Wizards game in Washington, D.C. I got past the two security guards at the door by explaining that I was a wife of an employee and my husband, who was on his way, had our tickets with him.

With a completely believable delivery of this BS story, my girlfriend and I upgraded our \$20 nosebleed tickets to box seats, complete with open bar and buffet.

**3. Associate yourself with someone who is actually invited.** On your way into the venue, or right when you get into it, immediately start

chatting up someone who was actually invited.

Try to pick someone not too close to the host and who consequently needs someone to help relieve the social uneasiness of being a party without knowing many people. If you develop a good rapport with this person early on, they can help you out later on.

**4. Don't discuss too many details about yourself.** Although I agree with many of the Wedding Crashers' creeds (rule #65: "When your crash partner fails, you fail. No man is an island," or rule #10: "Invitations are for pussies"), Owen Wilson's and Vince Vaughn's long-winded, extravagant and fallacious stories can be detrimental when crashing.

From personal experience, the best tactic is to create a rough story about where you're from and why you're there but *that's it*.

Do not start telling everyone you were there the night Michael Jackson died. Conversely, try to get people talking about themselves; it's a great way to distract them and keep a low profile.

**5. Don't push it.** Do not be the last person there, clutching a bottle of Jack, toasting to people you don't know, while "remembering" events you were never at. Crash the party, have fun and then leave before you push your luck and someone zeroes in on you.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANGER

Flashy entrances like this may not be the best way to crash a party.

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## Fashioning a brand

VICTORIA CRAIG  
CORD LIFE

We all know the big names: Dior, McQueen, Jacobs, but do any of us really know how these influential leaders of the men's fashion industry actually started out? If you're looking to follow the next up-and-comer of the fashion world, you need not look any further than the halls of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Moustafa Tonbol may only be in his second year of communication studies at Laurier, but he is already gaining a solid foothold in the fashion world with his distinguished and original brand, called Bourjwah. With a blog, six new t-shirt designs and an entire line in the works, Tonbol is diving head-first into the fashion industry.

In his blog (www.bourjwah.blogspot.com), Tonbol writes that "Bourjwah is more than a clothing line, but a lifestyle.... This line is devoted to reinventing the style of the 1940s and 1950s vintage Parisian man."

However, his blog reaches much further than the scope of his own designs as it covers "men's fashion, art, music and anything that has to do with design basically ... it doesn't really cover the mainstream fashions. It's more about the up-coming labels," said Tonbol.

In regards to the budding six-month-old Bourjwah line itself, Tonbol states, "I like to keep it exclusive, make it a luxury brand." While the release of six original t-shirt designs this year certainly maintains the Bourjwah brand as one of exclusiveness and sophistication, Tonbol is in the works of expanding Bourjwah into a full-fledged line of menswear.

"I design everything that has to do with menswear. I started out with t-shirts to see people's feedback and I have everything else in the production stage right now like shirts, pants, even jeans, denim jackets as well."

Already, Tonbol is seeing more than a favourable response to his new line. After winning an open call for a designers contest held by local uptown boutique jBU at the beginning of the month, Tonbol's designs will soon be featured in-store – providing him with his first retail outlet for the brand.

While Tonbol looks to style icons Marc Jacobs and Kanye West for inspiration, he explains how he has "been seeing that everything is cookie cutter; the exact same, just a different logo."

However at the end of the day, it seems that what fuels Tonbol is his zest for design and love for what he does. "I'm taking this more as a hobby and as a passion than as a business and profit."

In the future, Tonbol looks forward to taking the brand to an international level through sales on his soon to be finished website, www.bourjwah.com, as well as through Canadian retailers. He even strives to open his own store in Europe within the next few years. With plans to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York upon graduation from Laurier, Tonbol displays the drive and commitment to make his designs a true success in the exclusive high-end fashion industry.

For now, you can check out the Bourjwah designs online and on the Bourjwah blog. To see the designs in action, stop by the Forbidden Frost Holiday Lingerie Fashion show this Friday, Dec. 4 at Caesar Martini's.



## Drinking days

Dec. 9

On this day in 1970, the smallpox virus was certified as extinct, marking the only human disease to ever be fully eradicated. Raise a glass knowing that there's one less thing in the world out there to kill you.

Dec. 12

This year, Hannukah begins on this day. Why restrict yourself to spiked eggnog and New Year's this month when you can light up the menorah, scarf down some latkes, get smashed and play spin the dreidel?

Dec. 21

Dec. 21 is global orgasm day, a day to dedicate an orgasm to the cause of world peace. No, seriously, it's a thing – see for yourself at [www.globalorgasm.org](http://www.globalorgasm.org), then go get drunk and participate.

Dec. 26

The 26 is Boxing Day, but it's also the first day in over a month that you'll be able to watch TV or listen to music that isn't Christmas related. Plus, you'll have plenty of gift money, so why not go get loaded?

# Examining the stigma that surrounds student disabilities

Staff Writer **Devon Butler** explores the challenges faced by students with mental and learning disabilities on campus

Whether it's passing a girl and her seeing-eye dog or a man in his wheelchair, we are all conscious of visible disabilities on campus. Yet for most of us, this is the extent of our awareness.

It seems that Laurier's campus houses an entire stratum of people who are often left ignored or stigmatized due to their physical or mental ailments.

To expose Laurier's supportive accessibility, The Cord spoke with a disabled student registered with the Accessible Learning Centre (ALC), as well as manager of the centre Gwen Page.

The ALC, which falls under the umbrella of Learning Services, has been active for over 20 years.

Their mandate commits to assisting students with disabilities to help reach their full academic potential. Currently, the ALC assists 721 undergrad and graduate students.

"It's a common misconception that Accessible Learning only helps those with visible or physical disabilities," said Page. "When really, the majority of the students we assist have learning disabilities or mental illnesses."

As non-visible disabilities are less noticeable, we can understand why these students are often unknown, and why they choose to remain that way.

According to the ALC 2008-09 client data, 81 of the 721 students suffer from attention deficiency, 148 from mental illnesses and 340 from learning disabilities.

To illustrate the severity of the stigma still surrounding learning

disabilities, I talked with a student who requested to be unidentified.

"I remain anonymous due to the stigma which is attached to having a learning disability. I have everything working against me as an African-American woman with a disability; people have a tendency to judge those deemed deficit."

The student was diagnosed with dyslexia after losing most of her short and long term memory after a serious car accident.

Some of the assistance she receives from the ALC is a special computer program which helps her read up to 300 words per minute. The student, who is set to graduate in April from the Seminary, will go on to become a marriage and family therapist.

Though it's been a difficult struggle, she said the ALC was instrumental in getting where she is today.

Each student registered with the ALC works closely with a career counsellor where they discuss career possibilities, set goals and gain support for possible issues they may face when entering the workforce.

The Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act of 2005 lays the foundation for equal access for persons with disabilities and outlines the accommodation process of the ALC.

This process is an individualized practice which each student must participate in to receive the benefits of the centre. The student is matched with a disability consultant where the planning begins. Some of

the unique needs the student may require are extra time writing exams, writing in private rooms and the use of special technologies or computers.

"It's a myth that students in ALC do not adhere to the same code of conduct as other students or that they are not expected to meet the same academic requirements," explains Page.

"All the accommodations we make assist the student in giving them the same opportunities to succeed; we ensure the same academic integrity."

"Students who graduate with the help of ALC are just as successful as any other Laurier student," said Page. "Many students go on to graduate or medical school and even teacher's college."

However, the centre doesn't always have time to dispel the stigma and misconceptions, as their 14 staff members work ardently to ensure the smooth sailing of the complex day-to-day functioning of its students.

For instance, a blind student will require all course material to be received from the professor, then publishers and finally transcribed into Braille. Preparation of this magnitude requires working semesters in advance.

Page acknowledged that one of the centre's future goals is the need to educate other students and staff about the nature of visible and non-visible disabilities. "It's a challenge to face the stigma of disabilities," she said. "Education goes hand in hand with success and acceptance."

## DearLIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum.

All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to [dearlife@thecord.ca](mailto:dearlife@thecord.ca) no later than Monday at noon each week.

**Dear Life:**

Why does every other faculty hate on business students all the time? It's not our fault if we make up the majority of the school. It's not our fault that we use up space because we actually do work. It's not our fault if we know what we want to do with our lives. But you know? It's alright, it's okay. You're going to work for US someday. Sincerely, Why Don't YOU Try Calculating Combined Tax Problems?

**Dear Life:**

So I saw Bacchus at the IRC formal and they were giving out condoms. I took one 'cause with a face like this why wouldn't I? Anyways two weeks later (still not used...) I'm having lunch with my mother and she asks if I have a full stamp card at Marble Slab. Thanks to my own stupidity I gave her my wallet to look through to see if I had one as I was paying... We both saw it. If I get a "safe sex" book in my Christmas stocking I'm moving out. Sincerely, Condoms are not Collectables, Use that Shit Real Quick

**Dear Life:**

Thank you for my severely awesome writing skills that are able to get me a 65 on an essay that I put zero effort into, only used two out of the five sources the prof required, and was two pages short of what was asked. Sincerely, Voldemort

**Dear Life:**

Why do you insist on teasing me with Christmas carols and giving my a false hope that we are nearing Christmas break when 1. Exams haven't even started and 2. There is no bloody snow! I thought we were in the snow belt! Sincerely, 'Tis the Season to be Jolly... Not!

**Dear Life:**

Why is it that girls feel the need to publish their life problems in their Facebook statuses/MSN names? These Negative Nancys and Sad Sallys might as well put "I am looking

for pity and attention, please feel sorry for me" instead of writing about how much they hate their university boyfriend that they didn't think would cheat on them or about failing another mid-term leading to another drunken night trying to pickup at the Turret where the girl-to-guy ratio is 25:1. Looking for pity does not make people pity you, it just makes people want to punch you in the face or kick you in the Ugg boot. Sincerely, Waaa, Waaa, Waaa

**Dear Life:**

Why do the employees at the Pita Shack on campus suck? Moping around like it is the worst day of their life - everyday. And really, learn how to roll pitas. I'm sick of getting tomatoes and cucumbers and sauces all over me. Sincerely, Give Your Employees A Tutorial On Pita Rolling

**Dear Life:**

Why do men have to become so emotional? Sincerely, If I Wanted To Date A Woman I Would

## Housing

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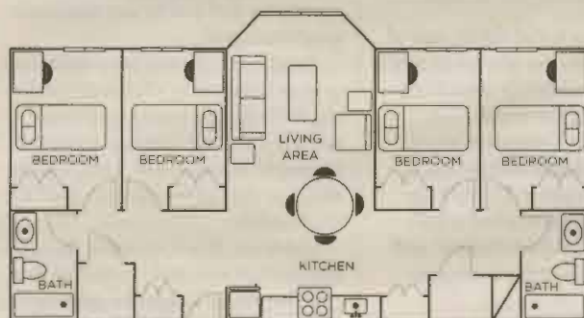
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# EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

## Rugby should stay at Laurier Waterloo

The Laurier athletics department is in the early stages of discussion surrounding the transfer of the men's and women's varsity rugby teams to the Brantford campus.

If the teams were to be transferred to Brantford, the additional cost of daily transportation would impede the accessibility of the sport to those in Waterloo. Adding the commute to the players' schedule, which is already filled with games and practices, would require a huge amount of the students' time.

Student athletes often choose Laurier specifically for the varsity sports they are recruited for. It is unfair to entice students to come to Laurier's Waterloo campus to play rugby and then alter the circumstances of the team so drastically.

It is also unreasonable to ask student athletes who are already enrolled at the Waterloo campus to transfer to Brantford. Laurier Brantford does not offer the same programs as Laurier Waterloo, so this would hinder the advancement of current players already working towards their university degree.

One of the reasons for the potential move is because Brantford students pay athletic fees, yet no varsity sports are available to them. If the university is concerned about Laurier Brantford paying fees and getting nothing in return, they should consider starting up varsity teams for other sports at the campus.

Though Brantford could benefit from the rugby program's move, sending the rugby teams – or any varsity team for that matter – would ultimately do disservice to the players. The positive effects of bringing sports teams to Brantford would not be enough to justify the inconvenience to the students who currently play.

The university has already cut funding from the rugby teams, requiring players to pay not only for their equipment, but for the opportunity to be on the team. Despite this, the men's rugby team has been very successful this year, making it to the quarterfinals.

Forcing the team to relocate would be yet another obstacle for Laurier students hoping to play rugby.

–The Cord Editorial Board

*This unsigned editorial is based off informal discussions and then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 16 senior Cord staff including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of The Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.*

## Letter of the week

*This letter has been selected by the editor to offer a commentary on last Friday's Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors meeting and the current state of the board.*

The role of the board of directors is to set and evaluate the long-term strategic goals of WLUSU and ensure that all activities of management further these goals. But instead, what has happened?

This board has abandoned the work of last year's board in redefining the vision of WLUSU, despite acknowledging the current plan is unclear, non-reportable and not reflective of student needs.

They have also ignored mandates to pursue environmental sustainability policies, prevent campus clubs funding delays, monitor faculty association development, assess progress on the website project and move to online voting. They've approved reports that don't fulfill even basic requirements, debated already-passed elections policies that have hundreds of pages of supporting evidence and watched movies at retreats instead of tackling major issues. This board doesn't demand of themselves the proper training, knowledge and passion to represent students.

They are so concerned with avoiding "fights" with management that they are paralyzed when it comes to setting policies on important issues.

Where can I find WLUSU's environmental sustainability policy? WLUSU's stance on class sizes? Educational quality? Textbooks? Provincial and federal lobbying priorities? What role will faculty associations play in the future? What about balancing fiscal issues surrounding increased business revenues vs. unforgivable budgeting omissions?

Oh, sorry, you're right, it's much more important to insult the work of your own committees and question the ability of fellow directors to read, then yell at them and tell them to "slow the fuck down". I thought you were there to provide for the needs of students.

Do something with the time you have left that makes the union aspire to a better future and leaves a legacy for those who follow you. You owe at least that much to yourselves and the people that voted for you.

–Asif Bacchus, 2008-09 chair of the WLUSU board

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TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

## Individual identity is crucial to having a successful relationship

Too often women depend on their romantic partners to fulfill their lives



KIMBERLY ELWORTHY  
OPINION EDITOR

I thought I was a serial dater, one of those people who are always in a relationship or constantly searching for the flavour of the week.

I had spent my formative years in a long-term relationship that became common-law at the ripe age of 19. My boyfriend worked a full-time job while I played student and doting housewife to his immense delight.

I am not someone who submits to men – most people would probably envision me as a rather enthusiastic feminist – but by nurturing my partner I was en route to eternal bliss... wasn't I?

Well, I can say with a resounding "no" that investing my happiness in someone else was by far the worst idea my friends and family have ever allowed me to believe.

Since the birth of my singledom, I have noticed that the content of my girlfriends' speech habits, single or in a relationship, on a regular basis, is focused around men: lovers, boyfriends and one-night stands now seem to fill my aural experience.

I do not believe that love or relationships are bad, nor am I bitter.

They are extremely important – discussing problems or expressing your happiness to friends should be welcomed, but I am beginning to wonder about the other things that are important to who we are.

What about our own hobbies, passions or dreams?

Are we allowing ourselves to simply be defined by our romantic relationships?

Relationships can become a dangerous thing; they elicit intoxicating feelings of passion and irrationality and we become addicted to people being in our lives, which make us feel as though our lives are worthwhile.

However, it is inevitable that relationships will end – one day that person will no longer be next to you and you will never know when that day will be.

Author Jo Coudert once wrote, "You do not need to be loved, not at the cost of yourself. The single relationship that is truly central and crucial in a life is the relationship to the self. Of all the people you will know in a lifetime, you are the only one you will never lose."

The one thing I have learned from my common-law debacle was that we must learn the things that cannot be compromised and stand up for them in the face of love.

We must begin to ask ourselves, "If the person we love is gone, what, at the end of the day, will make me happy? What do I have for myself?"

In my year thus far of being

What about our own hobbies, passions or dreams? Are we allowing ourselves to simply be defined by our romantic relationships?

single, I have discovered my sense of independence and have realized that being alone does not automatically mean one is lonely.

The pleasure I experience just from the complete freedom to do everything I enjoy without question is unexplainable.

When you find your own interests, the pressure on a relationship is alleviated.

Instead of being one couple bound together and defined by each other, you are two individuals contributing your own identities to the dynamic of the relationship adding to the continuous discovery of each other.

It is too easy to get caught up in chasing after love; though I would argue that it may be worthwhile, in the long-run, to truly know yourself and be happy with who you are will become invaluable.



# THE FORUM

## I'll have a blue, blue, blue Christmas



**DON MORGENSON**  
letters@thecord.ca

According to the media and uncontested common sense, you can add the Christmas blues to the traditional reds and greens.

Christmas brings us not only excessive worries about excessive shopping and eating, but fitness clubs everywhere are getting prepared for the after-the-holidays guilt complexes. We have been told that Christmas increases the incidence and expression of many different psychiatric disorders.

Some complicated by high and unrealistic expectations, coerced family get-togethers which insist on

the suppression of long-standing family differences and the chronically-forced Christmas cheer consisting of smiles, merriment and the omnipresent good wishes.

Because of the pressures at Christmas, the so-called Christmas blues pose real danger to our mental health; at least, so runs the popular myth. However, careful studies fail to confirm the trials and tribulations resulting in the Christmas blues.

Much of it was started in an obscure paper, published in the *Journal of American Psychoanalytic Association*, which stated, "Depressions which occur during the Christmas season are primarily the result of reawakened conflicts related to unresolved sibling/family rivalries."

Other observers have compared behaviour around Christmas to customs surrounding childbirth: the long period of preparatory excitement, secret anticipation, the last-minute flurry of preparations,

the prohibition about entering the rooms containing gifts and the relief of tension by the final delivery.

This is why people develop problems at Christmas time; it stirs up unconscious fantasies and unresolved conflicts about childbirth.

Some worriers allude to the holiday celebrations where there is a slackening of the prohibitions against self-indulgence.

Then there are those who have referred to the magical wish-fulfillment of Christmas, followed after the holiday by realistic frustrations.

With all of this we have the holiday syndrome, which increases anxieties in individuals who have difficulties establishing close emotional ties and develop feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Perhaps all of the hype about Christmas depression serves a useful function by permitting some of us not to feel deliriously happy about decking the halls; but does

Christmas cause anxieties?

One study looked at admissions to a psychiatric facility and reports no statistically significant increases in such admissions to hospital or increases in suicides at Christmas.

In fact, most studies examining December hospital admissions have reported relatively low numbers.

Studies of suicide consistently report that the numbers of suicides in December and January were average or low, suggesting that if this holiday syndrome exists, it is not strong enough to produce significant changes in suicide rates.

Are we dealing with a mythical syndrome? Studies suggest yes.

But perhaps the holiday syndrome is muddled by Seasonal Affective Disorder Syndrome (SADS); the estimated prevalence of SADS is three to eight per cent of the total population and is highly treatable.

The evidence is strong that SADS occurs in the winter because of

diminished light, so it may have little to do with Christmas.

The evidence suggests that most of the major holidays temporarily suppress, to a degree, mild symptoms of psychological disturbances.

While the holidays may mean for some of us sadness and unhappiness, some genuine Christmas cheer may actually relieve stress and ameliorate anxiety.

So exchange your Christmas blues for the traditional reds and greens. Such "blues" may be merely a figment of an active media imagination.

[thecord.ca/blogs](http://thecord.ca/blogs)

Read "The Cord Contemplates..."

Things to do in KW during December

## Letters to the editor

### Le Fevre was ill-informed

In response to the Rt. Hon. Colin Le Fevre's claims that this year's BoD is "lazy."

I must voice my displeasure and address the confusion he's undoubtedly caused with his remarks.

Regarding directors "not wanting to be part of a committee process," Mr. Le Fevre might be interested in knowing that 14 of the 15 directors sat on at least one committee, with some directors sitting on several of them. Had this year's Board truly been "lazy," we'd have been missing more than just one director at the meeting and three hours wouldn't have been spent debating the merits of each proposed policy change.

This isn't including the countless hours before the meeting spent by each Director studying the 80+ pages of reading material required.

To insinuate that Board members are unwilling to do any work is utterly offensive to all directors.

Each director cares a great deal about WLUSU's elections policy, because we want to ensure that, for example, clear and legitimate winners aren't unfairly disqualified, resulting in the Union winding up with a President who garnered only a minute percentage of votes.

His Majesty seems not to have researched what he was talking about

which is surprising and disappointing, considering his history with WLUSU.

—Greg Evans, WLUSU director

### Where are the journalists?

The writers at The Cord had a week to research and write an article(s) about the allegations our government is complicit in war crimes through the transfer of Afghani detainees knowing they would be tortured.

The writers at the Cord did not write a single article.

Richard Colvin's testimony was not shocking. Amnesty International, the Red Cross and examples of Maher Arar, Omar Khadr, Aboufian Abdelrazik, Abdullah Almalki, Muayyed Nureddin, and Ahmad Abou El-Maati have shown there is a culture of complicity on behalf of the Canadian government when it comes to torture of both Afghan and Canadian citizens.

In fact, Canada's involvement in the "War on Terror" has demonstrated our complicity in crimes against humanity and other egregious war crimes in the name of democracy, freedom, and development. Section 5 of the Canadian Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act of 2000 states explicitly that someone in a position of

authority has an obligation to investigate any report of an alleged war crime.

While the Canadian government refuses to release documents to a parliamentary committee, Canadians are left wondering if our values and laws are under attack.

We need a full independent public inquiry. Where is the outrage?

—Luke Stewart

### Child-molesting priests article was poorly researched

Re: Catholic Church wrong to protect child-molesting priests, Nov. 25, 2009

When I read last week's editorial article dealing with the Catholic Church, I was appalled; evidently, checking facts is out of date.

I would like to begin by saying that I, like the writer of said article, am, in fact, an atheist. I do not believe in God, nor do I support the Catholic Church in any focused way.

However, I do support articles that are researched before they are put to print. The main problem is the message behind the "Crimen Sollicitationis". This document operates in the exact opposite way to what was stated in the article. It is a measure regarding secrecy and anonymity within the church, for canonical trials, not for preventing the denouncement of guilty members

of the clergy; it actually encourages that, and has places no restrictions on worshippers who are not ordained.

That aside, the whole article is articulated in a very inflammatory way. Random accusations such as 'the Catholic Church uses fear to manipulate children' are absolutely unacceptable in a public forum.

Before you make unfounded statements involving fact (in fact, Islam has more practitioners than the Catholic Church, by about 300 million; hardly the 'religion that dominated the world'), check your sources.

—Jordan Burrows

Last week's editorial column was completely unfounded. Poor research on the author's behalf has, once again, led to serious questions being brought against the Catholic Church and its quest for morality.

Knowledge in the psychology behind sexual assault would alert the author to the fact that almost all people(s) involved in abusing a child "uses fear to manipulate children so they do not stand up for their basic human rights in instances where they are sexually assaulted". This method of induced silence is not exceptional of Catholic Priests.

The "absolute oath of silence" required by the Crimen Sollicitationis

does not force children who have been sexually assaulted to remain silent against those who have committed the crimes.

The document also does not state that "excommunication awaits all those who break this oath of silence", but rather the penalty of excommunication was specifically for members of the tribunal who broke the oath of silence.

While the secrecy surrounding any accusation of a sexual nature towards a Priest was obviously interpreted by the author of this column to be the cover-up of scandalous acts, it was meant to ensure the protection of all involved.

By ensuring that the accusation will not be made public (although the outcome of any trial is indeed made public) Crimen Sollicitationis allows witnesses to speak freely, accused priests to protect their good name until guilt is established, and victims to come forward who don't want publicity.

—Stacey Stahlbaum

### Letter policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. noon Monday via e-mail to [letters@thecord.ca](mailto:letters@thecord.ca).

The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.

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# OPINION

## Protesting culture is lost



IAIN MCCAULEY  
letters@thecord.ca

The student resistance movements that were once a given on university campuses have been withering away in the contemporary age of consumerism.

Being a student previously meant that one's identity was associated with learning; this learning ignited resistance against the status quo.

These protests, which challenged dominant ideologies, are the iconic events of significant student history.

In the 1960s and '70s, the U.S. wars in Vietnam and Cambodia were met by mass movements of resistance by the student population; this identity of confrontation defined a generation.

These protests created fear within the U.S. government establishment – the defenders of the status quo. Due to the scale and scope of the student movements, the government feared a broader range of dissent would grow.

On May 4, 1970 at Kent State University, the National Guard was sent to confront protestors who were challenging the U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

This confrontation led to the murder of four students and the

wounding of nine others at the hands of the National Guard.

The government feared the political movements of the student population to such a degree that they were willing to use deadly force to silent any dissent.

These examples are some of many. Students have been the pillars of resistance movements throughout history, with events such as the Paris uprisings in 1967-68, Tiananmen Square in 1989 and in Iran this past summer.

But in contemporary society, most students no longer identify with this culture of opposition; they instead pride themselves in their acceptance of the status quo.

The excesses of consumption and consumerism act as a pacifying force on the identity of student resistance.

Students today mostly associate with the notion of the self in the complacent acceptance of mainstream culture. Education for students has transformed from a tool of learning into a means of getting ahead.

In preparation for the "real world," we have come to accept the ideology that our identity and our notion of the self is a reflection of what we physically possess.

Education has become a tool to perpetuate this cycle; it gives many youth the ability to increase their means of consumption through higher wages.

The traditional student identity of resistance would see these ideals of consumerism as an imposition

onto the self and would therefore resist.

The irony of consumption and resistance today is that the idea of resistance itself has been commodified.

Around campus you will see the image of Che Guevara on T-shirts or the Palestinian keffiyeh wrapped around students' necks.

Most wear these in ignorance of the political resistance that they are meant to represent. Today, many students flaunt these images of resistance as part of a consumption culture.

Students need to create space where they can form cultural identities through the independent dissemination of ideas.

Purchasing a Che Guevara T-shirt closes space from cultural dissent and influences the destruction of an authentic student identity.

The student identity is in need of resuscitation.

I am hoping that the protest of the Canadian-hosted G-20 meetings this June will be led by the student population.

Let this act be a call for all students who, from their education, have been made aware of oppression but have so far failed to act against it.

Resistance does not come with a T-shirt, it comes from independent thought and collective action against forces of oppression.

Let us make our resistance the definitive marker of our generation and prove that the status quo is not good enough.



NICK LACHANCE FILE PHOTO  
AW@L protests the Vancouver Olympics on Oct. 23, 2009.

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# SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

## Women's hockey team remains undefeated

Hawks win 12th and 13th games of the season on the weekend

CHRIS PAOLA  
CORD SPORTS

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' women's hockey team is firing on all cylinders and it's showing with a 13-0-0 record.

Their offence has been lethal – they have the second most goals scored in the entire league and have outshot their opponents almost every game.

Their defence has been impenetrable. The Hawks have allowed just nine goals in 13 games thanks to a solid defensive core, unbelievable goaltending and a superior penalty kill.

To most, it would seem that everything is clicking for the Hawks; however, head coach Rick Osborne said that there is always room for improvement.

"I'm really proud with the way our penalty kill is working right now," he said.

"But I'd like to see our power play capitalize a little more often."

The Hawks started off the weekend by defeating the Windsor Lancers on Saturday night.

Despite their 5-9 record, the Lancers gave the Hawks a tough fight. Team captain Andrea Ironside scored the lone goal of the game as the Hawks won 1-0.

Sunday's matchup was against long-time rivals the Western Mustangs. It was a gritty affair, but the Hawks came out on top 4-1.

Laurier received goals from veterans Kate Psota, Katherine Shirriff and Laura Bartolini, as well as rookie Devon Skeats, who notched the second goal of her Laurier career.

Rookie goalie Kristen Kilgallen also showed off her skills as she

stopped 13 of the 14 shots she faced, making several outstanding saves.

"[Kilgallen] proved tonight that she can play with the top dogs," said assistant captain Stephanie Crarey.

"And she did so definitely by saving us many times tonight."

According to Crarey, the rookies are proving that they are here to win.

"Coming in they had big shoes to fill and they have definitely done so," she said.

"We can't complain. Those girls have done awesome for us so far and I think they're going to continue to do so."

The number-two nationally-ranked Hawks embark on a road trip this weekend where they will face the Queen's Gaels and the UOIT Ridgebacks.

These will be the team's final games before the holiday break.



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier's Mitchell Good (right) battles with a Western defender.

## Men split weekend

JAMIE NEUGEBAUER  
STAFF WRITER

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' men's hockey team saw their record move to 10-4-1 over the weekend after a home loss to the Western Mustangs on Thursday and a road win over the Brock Badgers on Friday.

The Hawks dominated against Western in the first and third periods – out-shooting them 10-5 and 18-5 in those frames, respectively – but were defeated for the second time in a row against the Mustangs by a score of 5-4.

"We created a lot of opportunities to score and we let a few chances slide," said Hawks' head coach Kelly Nobes. "They were, on the other hand, very opportunistic."

The first period was a see-saw battle as the two teams traded markers and combined for five goals. The Mustangs got the scoring started, but Jason Bergeron and Jean-Michel Rizk countered in the stanza for the Hawks.

Golden Hawks' goaltender Jeff MacDougald had a game to forget as he was pulled following the first period after giving up three soft goals on only five shots. He was replaced by freshman Ryan Daniels to begin the second, who was solid for the rest of the game, making 24 saves to keep Laurier in the game.

"Everybody has off nights," commented Laurier captain Jean-Michel Rizk of MacDougald's playing.

"They were good shots and we knew [MacDougald] was trying hard. He will bounce back."

The Mustangs extended their lead early in the third period, which

seemed to ignite the Hawks as they put on the pressure, forcing Western net-minder Keyvan Hunt into many quality saves and hitting two posts.

Forward Ryan Bellows cut the Mustangs' lead to one with 10 minutes left in the game, but the Hawks just could not find the equalizer.

"We just could not bury," said Rizk. "We hit some posts and their goalie made a lot of good saves. It was a tough night for the team."

Laurier has a four-game losing streak against Western, with all games being decided by one goal.

"They are the third-ranked team in the country for a reason," said Nobes.

"They are loaded with talent from top to bottom and they work hard. Tonight we outshot them 38-31, but the pucks were just not bouncing our way."

### GOLDEN HAWK UPDATE

Week of  
December 1-6, 2009

#### RECENT SCORES

11.29.09

M Volleyball 3 - York 2  
W Volleyball 2 - York 3  
W Hockey 4 - Western 1

11.28.09

M Basketball 83 - Laurentian 55  
W Basketball 80 - Laurentian 67  
M Volleyball 3 - Ryerson 0  
W Volleyball 0 - Ryerson 3  
W Hockey 1 - Windsor 0

11.27.09

M Basketball 66 - York 55  
W Basketball 67 - York 42  
M Hockey 3 - Brock 2

11.26.09

M Hockey 4 - Western 5

#### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

12.03.09

W Volleyball vs Waterloo  
Athletic Complex, 6:00 p.m.  
M Hockey vs York  
Sunlife Financial Arena, 7:30 p.m.

#### LAURIER BOOKSTORE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jesse MacDonald  
Men's Basketball

Rence Dijk  
Swimming

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YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier captain Andrea Ironside (66) breaks away from a Windsor defender during Saturday's win.

## Move uncertain

Although the likelihood of a team moving to Brantford is unlikely in the near term, it seems to be a definite possibility in the future, as this is not the first time the issue – specifically regarding the rugby program – has come up.

During last year's budget reduction – which saw eight teams, including the men's and women's rugby teams, lose university funding – the athletic department explored moving teams to Brantford as an option to reduce costs.

"We did have some discussions last year, prior to the budget process about the possibility of moving some teams to Brantford, and rugby was definitely one of them," said Baxter.

"I certainly talked to them [this year] about the possibility of [moving to] Brantford and what their feedback would be and they gave that to me, but that's really all that's happened."

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ROSALIE EID STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laurier's Andrew Pennycook (10) goes up for a basket.

## Winning weekend for men's basketball

Hawks win two in a row to improve their record to 3-5 on the season

KEVIN CAMPBELL  
STAFF WRITER

Consistency is all Peter Campbell asks for, and that's what the head coach of the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' men's basketball team got from his players on the weekend.

The Hawks played their best basketball of the season as the team came away with two wins against the York Lions on Friday and the Laurentian Voyageurs on Saturday.

But it was how they won that truly mattered to Campbell, as the purple and gold got out to sizeable leads in both games, but stumbled late against York in a 66-55 victory.

"We came out at the start of the second half, and we had a big lead going into the fourth quarter and we proceeded to let it go because we were thinking we had it won," stated Campbell.

However, good teams learn from their mistakes; much to Campbell's delight, the Hawks weren't about to disappoint their coach again.

With a 42-18 lead at halftime on Saturday, the Hawks' guns didn't stop firing just because they were in a comfortable position, and went on to handily vanquish the Voyageurs 83-55.

"[Last night] made it easier today, to stay focused on the defence," Campbell said after Saturday's affair.

"One of our weaknesses before is we get into scenarios where we have a chance to gap people and we make mistakes and all of a sudden they're

back in the game and now it's a panic situation."

It was a weekend in which the Hawks couldn't afford to panic. With the two wins, the team improves to 3-5 on the season and are working their way up the competitive West division from eighth spot.

The team got solid contributions from stand-outs Jesse MacDonald and Kale Harrison as well as budding star Maxwell Allin. But it was the supporting cast which drew the praise of Campbell with Travis Berry, Sharif Wanas and Evan Schwantz providing some much-needed secondary scoring.

"On our bad days, it's Jesse and Kale, Jesse and Kale, so they've got [all their players] running at those two," said Campbell. "But when everybody else starts contributing then the other team has to worry about them, and that takes the pressure off."

The Hawks' defence didn't miss a beat after a tough outing two weeks ago, in which the team gave up 97 points to Carleton and 73 points to Ottawa.

The improved defensive play from the team allowed the Voyageurs to score only 18 points in the first half.

"We've got to start at the defensive end and build out," stressed Campbell.

"If we do a good job, we'll get some easy baskets going the other way and we'll get rebounds."

The Hawks will break for the holidays and return in late December for an eastern road swing that sees the team travel to tournaments in Cape Breton and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

# Women's basketball back in the win column

Veteran Renata Adamczyk leads the Hawks to an undefeated weekend with wins over York and Laurentian

JUSTIN FAUTEUX  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks' women's basketball team managed to go into their holiday break on a high note over the weekend as they snapped their three-game losing streak with wins over the York Lions and the Laurentian Lady Vees.

"We really came to play right from the start in both those games," said head coach Paul Falco. "A lot of the things we worked on all week really came to fruition, in particular on the defensive end."

Friday's game saw the Hawks cruise to a 67-42 win, jumping out to an early lead and holding off the Lions for the rest of the game. The purple and gold managed to keep the Lions bottled up on their way up court, forcing 25 turnovers.

"I thought our defensive pressure was really good in that game," said Falco. "We were able to take them out of their regular set that they like

to run on the offensive end, and force them to make some poor decisions with the ball."

On Saturday, the Hawks faced a tougher test in the form of the Lady Vees, who rank fourth in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) East division. After a back and forth first half, Laurier took control in the third quarter, outscoring the Lady Vees 23-14 on their way to an 80-67 victory.

80 points is the highest total the Hawks have racked up since Feb. 11 last season.

"[Over the weekend] we definitely got out of that little rut we were in," said Falco. "We've got a pretty long break now, and hopefully we can keep that momentum going into January."

Leading the way for the Hawks in both games was veteran Renata Adamczyk.

The fourth-year, who was named the OUA west defensive player of the year and an OUA second-team all-star last season, has picked up

where she left off, continuing her solid defence and becoming even more of an offensive threat.

Adamczyk was the Hawks' top scorer in both games over the weekend, putting up 20 points against the Lions and 17 against the Lady Vees. She currently leads the team in scoring, assists and steals, and ranks second in rebounds.

"Renata's definitely one of our leaders both on and off the court," said Falco.

"She brings us a lot of offence and does a really good job in rebounding. Against York she had 10 rebounds from the guard position and that's really impressive."

Over the break, the Hawks will travel to Montreal to compete in non-conference games against Bishop's, the Université du Québec à Montréal and Acadia.

They will look to continue their winning streak against OUA competition on Jan. 6, on the road against the Guelph Gryphons.



SEAN POLLOCK STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hawks' guard Aleksa Brkic drives past York's Brittany Szockyj (5) during Laurier's 67-42 win on Friday night. The Hawks went 2-0 on the weekend, improving their record to 3-5.

## Sports in brief

### Dijk qualifies for national championship

After an incredible performance at the invitation-only University Challenge Cup, Renee Dijk, a rookie on Laurier's swim team qualified for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) finals.

Dijk will join teammate Whitney Rich at the national championship, hosted by the University of Toronto on the weekend of Feb. 18.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

### Three Hawks named All-Canadians

Over the weekend, Dillon Heap, Courtney Stephen and Giancarlo Rapanaro of Laurier's football team were recognized as Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) all-stars.

Heap was named to the first-team as a kick returner, while Stephen and Rapanaro made the second-team at safety and linebacker, respectively.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux

### Queen's takes home 2009 Vanier Cup

On Saturday, the Queen's Gaels defeated the Calgary Dinos 33-31, to win the 2009 Vanier Cup.

The Gaels are the first team from Ontario to win the Vanier Cup since the Golden Hawks did it in 2005.

The only game the Gaels lost in 2009 was at Laurier, when the Hawks defeated them 25-13 in the final game of the regular season.

—Compiled by Justin Fauteux